

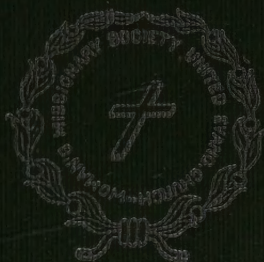


Reminiscences

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Woman's Missionary Society
of the
United Evangelical Church

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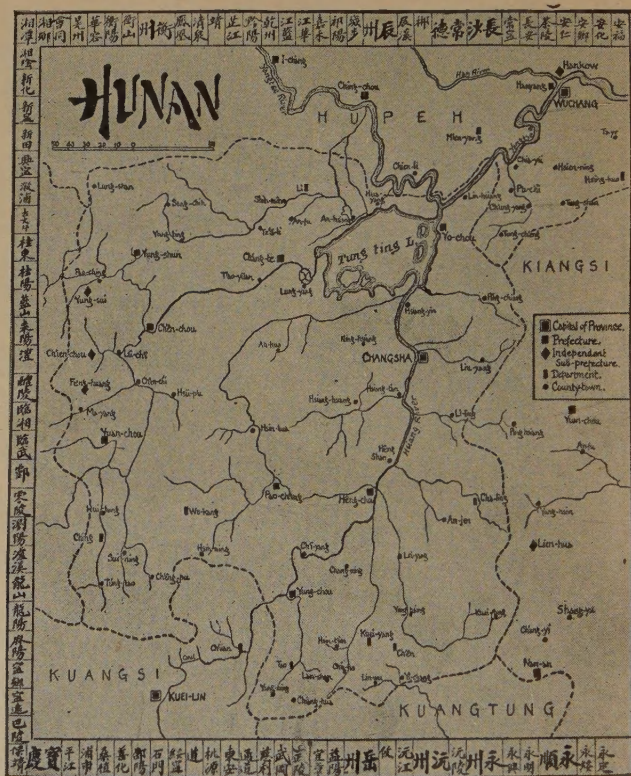
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REMINISCENCES



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REMINISCENCES

Being a record of five and twenty years' progress
in the Woman's Home and Foreign
Missionary Society of the United
Evangelical Church

EDITED BY
ESTELLA HARTZLER STEINMETZ



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1910

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AT CLAREMONT
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PREFACE

In this little book, the Woman's Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church presents a series of sketches covering briefly the history of twenty-five years' missionary movement in the denomination. Written by women who have given generously of their time, strength and means to the glorious cause of missions,—and have taken an active part in the incidents related,—these sketches are at once interesting and authentic.

Herein is shown the zeal and devotion of the organizers, who laid the society's foundation;—equally, the enthusiasm with which those following carried forward the work so well begun.

This is intended as a reference book for the many interested in the quarter-century's development of our Woman's Missionary Society. May the record also prove an example, and an incentive to faithfulness.



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The
Alabaster
Box

It was not at meat in the Pharisee's house
That I sought the Lord to-day,
Nor yet in my closet, hushed and fair,
When I lowly knelt to pray;
But I carried my box of ointment sweet
In the face of the throngs that I chanced to meet.

"It is jewelled and precious," I proudly cried,
"And it cost me gems and gold,
And see, I shall pour it freely out
That my neighbors may behold,
And then I will meekly go my way,
'She has broken her box,' will the gazers say."

So up and down through the busy street,
Seeking my Lord, I went,
My head held high and my soul on fire
With the glow of its good intent,
And presently hard where two roads met
Stood One whom my spirit cannot forget.

Down in the dust at His beautiful feet,
With my trailing draperies white,
I cast myself with the odors sweet—
Were there angels to watch the sight?
"Lo! I for thy pleasing have brought my best;
Take it, sweet Saviour, and give me rest!"

He stayed me then with a kingly word:
"Not so, my child!" said He.
"Hast thou never a thought of the hidden name
In the hands that were pierced for thee?
Would'st thou wound the heart that broke to save
Thy life from the power that holds thee slave?"

"Bring hither thy pride and thy discontent
And thy cherished and vain self-will;
Empty thy soul of its low desires
That my love that soul may fill.
It is not thy jewelled box I crave;
I am seeking the soul that I died to save.

"And never a gift of precious worth
Can'st thou bestow upon Me,
While thou shuttest thy poorest brother out
From thy quickened sympathy,
And never in crowds and sordid show
Can I my best upon thee bestow."

The vision faded; the throngs whirled by;
I stood in the path alone.
Then I went to seek for the lost, the weak,
Since my blessed Lord was gone.
Wherever they need me the box I break
To-day, to-day, for my Lord's dear sake.

—Margaret E. Sangster.



The Charter Members
of the Woman's Missionary Society



Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer



Mrs. Sarah Hartzler



Mrs. H. B. Hartzler



Mrs. Lottie Swengel

The Charter Members
of the Woman's Missionary Society



Mrs. M. M. T. Fouke



Mrs. S. L. Wiest



Mrs. S. A. O. Herlacher



Mrs. W. M. Stanford

REMINISCENCES

Organization and Method

In the days when Jesus of Nazareth walked among men, a gracious woman, moved by love and gratitude, came to Him with "an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on His head, as He sat at meat." Deeply moved by this expression of love, Jesus said: "Wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." In the great "Book of Remembrance written before Him," by unerring pens of celestial historians, all record of service for Him will be preserved unto the day when "the books shall be opened." Surely it is fitting and well pleasing to God that such records of service for Him should also be made here, not only for a "memorial," but also to "provoke unto love and good works." It is with this thought and motive that the following historical sketch of the Woman's Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church has been written.

That the uninformed reader may follow intelligently the course of the history from its beginning, it is necessary to anticipate a later development with the explanation, that the name of the society under consideration, at the time of organization, was The Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association, which was afterwards changed to the name the organization now bears—The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church.

The first strong impulse that stirred and moved the women toward the thought of organized missionary activities, apart from the General Missionary Society of the

Evangelical Association, was the opening of the Association's first foreign mission. A great wave of missionary enthusiasm swept through the church in 1876, when it was announced that the first band of missionaries, consisting of Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Kreckler, Miss Rachel Hudson and Rev. A. Halmhuber, had accepted the call of the



Top Row—Rev. A. Halmhuber, Dr. Frederick Kreckler. Lower Row—Miss Rachel Hudson, Marguerite Kreckler, Preston Kreckler, Mrs. Frederick Kreckler, Ada Kreckler.

Board of Missions to go to Japan. The earnest words of the outgoing missionaries, spoken to large congregations at farewell services, in various churches, deepened the feeling of responsibility and desire for home missionary effort. After the missionaries reached Japan, Miss Hudson, in her correspondence in the *Evangelical Messenger*, and in private letters, especially in those to Miss Ella J. Yost, urged the necessity for a Woman's Missionary So-

ciety in the church to aid the work among the women of the Sunrise Kingdom. Inspired by these letters and editorials, Miss Yost began to bring the subject before the women of the church through her fertile pen, and finally, in the *Evangelical Messenger* of May 23, 1878, she sent out a call to them to prepare for the organizing of women's missionary societies.

Also, Mrs. Hoffsommer, of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, after reading the addresses made at the missionary farewell service, felt impelled to suggest through the *Messenger*, that the women of the church have a box labelled: "The Japanese Mission Box," and each week drop into it five cents for the cause—little thinking that in a few years there would be a Woman's Missionary Society to receive the contributions.

As early as April, 1876, the editor of the *Evangelical Messenger*, Rev. H. B. Hartzler, said in an editorial: "The missionary spirit in the church should be stimulated in every possible way. The more this blessed work is prosecuted, the greater will be the direct results of precious harvesting." Also in the *Messenger* of October 3, 1878, the editor calls the attention of the Board of Missions to the desire of the women to organize a Woman's Missionary Society, and in later editorials kept this subject continually before the church. Finally, Mrs. Jacob Hartzler, Mrs. Sarah A. O. Herlacher, Miss Ella J. Yost and Mrs. H. B. Hartzler, after a council at the home of the first-named, requested their pastor to announce a meeting for discussion of the subject; all joined freely in plans, suggestions and earnest prayer. During the discussion a prominent official of the church remarked, "It will be useless to appeal to the Board; they will not grant permission for such an organization." Whereupon Mrs. Herlacher remarked: "Well, they cannot prevent our gathering funds and praying for such an organization," which the women did until their desire was granted by the Board.

In October, 1878, a petition was sent to the Board of Missions by a number of women from the Calvary church, Cleveland, Ohio, requesting the Board to make provision for the organization of a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. The Board, however, refused the application on the ground that they could see no necessity for such an organization in the church. They requested the women to continue in the good work, maintaining that they already had opportunity enough to work for the cause of missions in connection with the General Board. But the band of women felt differently, and nothing daunted, planned and prayed while they waited.

In 1880, the women of Lindsay, Ohio, inspired by their leader, Miss Minerva Strawman, prepared a second petition and presented it to the Board of Missions, in Cleveland, October 8. This petition was received with some favor, and the privilege to organize local auxiliaries, under the supervision of the pastors in charge, was granted. October 27, 1880, societies were organized in South Chicago, Illinois, and in Lindsay, Ohio. On February 9, 1881, the women of the Calvary church, Cleveland, Ohio, organized; next Naperville, Illinois, came into line with a society, and others followed in rapid succession.

Letters from the "Sunrise Kingdom," and editorials appeared in the *Evangelical Messenger* and other church papers, urging organization in all the districts in every conference, and a definite plan for general organization—to which the women of Cleveland had been looking forward from the very first, and in which movement they led. A committee from the Cleveland local society was appointed to draw up a constitution,—Miss Ella J. Yost, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Mrs. S. L. Wiest, Mrs. Lottie Swengel and Mrs. H. B. Hartzler. The constitution was published in the *Evangelical Messenger* of March 1, 1881, and afterward sent out in pamphlet form for the use of the auxiliaries.

The work progressed, but not as rapidly as desired,

and in 1883 the Cleveland Society appointed the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, to open correspondence with women throughout the church, to arouse and increase the spirit of missions. January 16, 1883, the first letter was sent out, followed by many others, which proved such an impetus to pastors and people, that in a short time forty new societies were organized, representing eleven annual conferences. A large number of copies of the constitution were sent out, and a special letter of appeal was forwarded to twenty of the conferences in annual session. It was read before only twelve of these. However, the Woman's Missionary Society received great encouragement from many of the conferences. The Pittsburg Conference of 1883 made special reference to the work of the women as possibly the most efficient missionary enterprise in the church.

On May 3, 1883, through the Corresponding Secretary of the Cleveland W. M. S., Mrs. Hammer, a communication was published in the *Evangelical Messenger*, inviting the local societies and others to a Woman's Missionary Convention in Calvary church, Cleveland, Ohio, June 3 and 4, 1883. Fifteen societies responded by sending delegates and others with letters of greeting. Mrs. H. B. Hartzler was chosen president, and Miss Kate Klinefelter, secretary. The meetings were full of interest and enthusiasm. One of the most important actions of the convention was the appointment of a committee to draft a letter to the General Conference, pleading for a place in authorized church-work, and for permission to organize a Woman's Board of Missions for Home and Foreign Work, auxiliary to the Parent Society. The committee consisted of Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, Mrs. H. B. Hartzler, of Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs. H. C. Smith, of Naperville, Illinois; Miss Minerva Strawman, of Lindsay, Ohio; Mrs. W. C. Kantner, of

Terre Hill, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. S. P. Spreng, of Circleville, Ohio.

"The startling tidings of the death of Dr. Kreckler, missionary in Japan, which came by cablegram to the convention on Sabbath morning, cast an almost inexpressible gloom and sadness over the audience, but impressed more deeply the needs of the missionary cause."

A resolution was passed at the next day's session, that all women of the church "observe the hour from one to two each day in earnest supplication for the success of the Woman's Missionary Society in the church."

The convention closed with great encouragement and the women were very hopeful. The editor of the *Evangelical Messenger* soon after opened a Woman's Column in the paper, "in the interest of the study of missions;" and in November, 1884, the motto of the society, as given in the report of the corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, appeared for the first time as a heading: "A Woman's Missionary Society in every congregation, and every woman a member."

The letter of appeal, prepared by the committee appointed at this convention, was sent to General Conference, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, October, 1883. The resolution reads thus:

WHEREAS, The time has fully come for the organization of a Woman's Board of Missions in the church, for the more systematic and general prosecution of this department of the work of missions; therefore,

Resolved, That we, the twenty-five local Woman's Missionary Societies represented here, respectfully and earnestly request the General Conference to sanction and authorize the organization of a Woman's Board, in order to a general organization of the work throughout the bounds of the church.

The General Conference gave favorable consideration to the appeal, and referred the organization of the Wo-

man's Missionary Society and its petitioners to the Board of Missions; the Board referred the matter to its Executive Committee. The Board of Missions appointed Miss Ada B. Johnson missionary to Japan. She was one of the leading workers in the Woman's Missionary Society of Calvary church, Cleveland, Ohio.

The action of the Board of Missions deferred the general organization of the W. M. S. for an entire year. Meanwhile the work of local organization was zealously prosecuted, and during the year following, the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Hammer, sent out a call for a convention to meet in Calvary church, Cleveland, Ohio, at the time of the annual meeting of the Board of Missions, in October, 1884. The convention was called to adopt the constitution and effect a general organization. There was appointed a committee of seven to proceed to Salem church, on Erie Street, where the Board was in session, to meet with a Board Committee, to consider and ratify the constitution. The constitution as presented by the women, was gone over article by article, and after many changes, finally ratified on October 12th. While the two committees were in session, the women were assembled in the prayer room of Calvary church, with Mrs. W. M. Stanford as leader, to supplicate at the throne of grace. At the evening session of that memorable Monday, a committee of two—Miss Minerva Strawman and Mr. D. C. Herr—were commissioned to go to the Board of Missions and obtain the result, returning at once to report. When they entered the room, with faces all aglow, prayer was turned to praise. The following morning, the 13th of October, the convention held a final session, and organized the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association, by the adoption of the constitution and the election of officers.

Mrs. S. L. Wiest was the first life member; Mrs. E. J.

Y. Preyer, the second. The first honorary member was Mrs. Charles Baltz, and the second, Mother Dill (seventy-five years old). The society successfully endured the test of the first year's formative stages, adjusting itself more and more fully to existing conditions and demands. The first annual meeting of the society found it fairly under way to achieve larger successes. The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church, as now named and constituted, is auxiliary to the missionary society of the church. The organization includes Woman's Board of Missions, Annual Conference Branch Societies, Local Societies, Young People's Societies, Mission Bands, Home Departments and Cradle Rolls. Among the agencies employed in the work is a Bureau of Literature for the spread of missionary intelligence, by means of a free circulating library and the publication of missionary magazines, leaflets and tracts.

The Woman's Board of Missions, which administers the affairs of the society, consists of the officers of the society and one representative for every fifteen auxiliaries of each Branch Society. An Executive Committee, elected by the Woman's Board, represents that body in the intervals of its annual meetings. The Conference Branches consist of delegates appointed from each auxiliary, also one representative from the Young People's Missionary Societies and Mission Bands.

On the occasion of the first convention, when the Constitution of the Woman's Missionary Society was adopted, Mrs. W. H. Fouke carried an autograph-book, in which she secured all the names of the delegates. These are:

Naperville, Illinois—

Mrs. H. C. Smith, Mrs. Laura Leffler, Miss May Stenger.

Chicago, Illinois—

Mrs. Charles Baltz, Mrs. W. H. Fouke.

Greensburg, Ohio—

Miss Kate Klinefelter, Mrs. Anna Kring.

Pittsburg, Pennsylvania—

Mrs. Rebecca Rohland.

Akron, Ohio—

Mrs. M. Hollinger, Mrs. J. Yocky.

Tiffin, Ohio—

Mrs. S. A. Vandersall.

Lindsay, Ohio—

Miss Minerva Strawman.

Cambridge City, Indiana—

Mrs. Rebecca Dill, Miss Pauline Shawhan.

Marshallville, Ohio—

Mrs. Nellie Good Schneider.

Flat Rock, Ohio—

Eliza McCauley, Miss Rose Meck.

Brownhelm, Ohio—

Mrs. S. K. Frebach.

Cleveland, Ohio—

Mrs. H. B. Hartzler, Mrs. L. A. Swengel, Mrs. S. L. Wiest, Mrs. W. M. Stanford, Mrs. E. C. Hasenpflug, Mrs. S. A. O. Herlacher, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Miss Emma Yost.

We close the chapter of organization and methods, to give place to others who will, in turn, tell of the work further achieved.

[An effort was made to secure the picture of Mrs. W. H. Hammer for this book; and we regret that it could not be obtained in time.]

The Story of the Numbers

In the chapter on "Organization and Method," we learn of the means employed to interest the women of the church in definite activity along missionary lines. It is the purpose of this chapter to record the society's growth in numbers.



*Mrs. Ida M. Haeefe, General Secretary of the
Woman's Missionary Society.*

Fluctuations in the thought and feeling of our church-life caused ebb and flow tides in the growth of the Woman's Missionary Society. The greatest growth of the membership is recorded during those periods, in the history of the church, when the women were free to make

prominent the thought of woman's work for the Christless millions in foreign lands. Not that at such times there was less interest in the home church; for our women were quick to see that a strong organization is dependent on a strong church,—and a strong mission in foreign lands needs a strong constituency for its support: but over and over again has it been proven that “the light that shines farthest, shines brightest at home.”

With this thought in mind, let us glance over the twenty-five years of our existence. The inception of the society came as a result of the church establishing a mission in Japan.

Mrs. H. B. Hartzler, Mrs. S. L. Wiest and Mrs. Preyer prepared the first Constitution. In a short time forty new societies representing eleven annual conferences, were organized. The records do not give a definite statement of the membership, but an approximate estimate would place it at 1,000.

October 14, 1884, this band of women were organized as a denominational organization, auxiliary to the Parent Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association.

That the women had faith in their cause was evident from their persistence. A humorous side of the situation was also evident: to reach the desired goal was such a long, severe strain, that, at this early day, one of the sisters was constrained to give an address on “The History of the Early Growth of Woman's Missionary Societies in Our Church.” The women now had an open field for effort. Difficulties there were and hindrances, and much prejudice on the part of the ministry to be overcome. There was much to learn because of the newness of the work and inexperience of a large number of the women; nevertheless, every year saw the organization becoming more efficient.

Beginning with 1885, other questions became so prominent in the church that much attention was diverted from

the Japan Mission. After the division of the church it ceased entirely to be a field for effort on the part of the United Evangelical women: and so for many years the most important work of the society lay along the line of organization. But from the year 1893, when interest centered around the accumulation of \$15,000 for the purpose of entering the foreign field, foreign work was again the power,—the centripetal force,—that drew the women into the ranks of the Woman's Missionary Society.

We must not understand that the task of raising \$15,000 was an independent factor, changing the trend of thought in the society. To the standard-bearers it meant only a step nearer the desired goal; but the fifteen thousand dollars became something tangible, a common interest to all the women, and the rank and file were more willing to identify themselves with the organization when they realized that there was special, definite work for them to do. The six years that followed were difficult years for the church, and consequently for the Woman's Missionary Society; but the women succeeded in adding nearly 2,050 to their membership, and raising \$14,000. For the part they were unable to do themselves,—work a change of condition and sentiment in the church,—they besieged the throne of grace and the reward of the importunate widow became theirs.

The next great uplift,—one that is ever deepening and widening in its beneficent influence on the growth and development of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church, came, when, in 1900, the church sent its first missionaries to Hunan, China, to establish a foreign mission;—of which the reader will learn in another chapter. Suffice it to say since 1900 there has been a gain in membership of over 3,500, and every conference has an active Branch organization. The accompanying table will show, that

from a numerical standpoint, the Woman's Missionary Society has long ago proven its right to exist.

	NUMBER OF AUXILIARIES	MEMBER- SHIP
1885, ...	45	1,292
1886, ...	60	1,686
1887, ...	78	2,048
1888, ...	71	1,697
1889, ...	115	2,398
1890, ...	124	1,959
1891, ...	72	1,660
1892, ...	59	1,333
1893, ...	77	1,785
1894, ...	101	2,117
1895, ...	113	1,932
1896, ...	98	2,142
1897, ...	156	2,488
1898, ...	153	2,703
1899, ...	172	2,703
1899, ...	172	2,807
1900, ...	165	4,240
1901, ...	194	3,799
1902, ...	225	4,207
1903, ...	227	4,757
1904, ...	242	5,108
1905, ...	263	6,035
1906, ...	285	6,685
1907, ...	284	7,186
1908, ...	301	7,841
1909, ...	320	8,449

The depression in the record of auxiliaries and membership from 1891-1893 is accounted for by a relentless church-war, and finally a division of the forces. The Woman's Missionary Society recognized no church trouble, but went quietly about its work. It naturally fell to

the side from whence it received its greatest encouragement, and that side became the United Evangelical Church. However, the society sustained a great loss in membership, as well as some of its ablest leaders, and it took several years to recover from the shock. The reorganization of the church and change of name brought about an entirely different condition of affairs; so that the Woman's Missionary Society, as we find it to-day, is greatly changed. Some of the Conference Branches are missing; others had practically disbanded, reorganized on a different basis, and are now known as our younger Branches. East Pennsylvania, Central Pennsylvania, Platte River and Illinois never swerved from their chosen path. East Pennsylvania Branch made its largest growth since 1900, and now numbers 3,508 members. Central Pennsylvania kept up a steady growth through the successive years and now has 1,738 members. Pittsburg and Des Moines Branches were organized in 1899; Pittsburg now having 646 members and Des Moines 365. For some years the Canton, Ohio, Auxiliary stood alone, but a Branch with three auxiliaries was organized in 1900. They have increased to twelve auxiliaries, having 325 members. The Platte River Branch never was so strong as at the present time; it numbers 26 auxiliaries, with 409 members. The Northwestern Branch was organized in 1901, and has a present membership of 187, while Kansas Branch, the youngest, was organized in 1902. It now has an active membership of 147.

Illinois Branch has a history that reads like a romance. In 1890 Illinois had 23 auxiliaries, with 289 members; Ohio Branch had 20 auxiliaries, with 360 members; Indiana Branch had 29 auxiliaries, with 231 members. None others could approach these three in numbers. So severe was the storm that broke over the Illinois Conference in 1891, that only nine auxiliaries, with 181 members were left to the Branch. But the Illinois

women bent their energies to the task of rallying, and in 1893 the corresponding secretary was able to report thirty-three auxiliaries, with a membership of 420, and over \$900 in the treasury. The Branch now has a membership of 949.

There are members in the Woman's Missionary Society at the present time, whose names touch a tender chord in the hearts of those who know the earlier struggles of the society. They are our veterans:—their names have run like a golden thread through the records of the Woman's Missionary Society for twenty-five years, and even yet they glint on the surface, either in Branch or Board or the local auxiliary. Such names as Mrs. H. B. Hartzler, Mrs. W. M. Stanford, Mrs. S. L. Wiest, Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler, Mrs. M. M. T. Fouke, Mrs. S. F. Entorf, Mrs. Wm. Caton, Mrs. W. E. Detwiler, Mrs. T. L. Haines and Mrs. J. W. Drehmer have made our present work possible, and we rejoice in continued interest and help. The Woman's Missionary Society has given to the church *women*. It has been a training school for women, so that in every conference Branch a strong, capable, consecrated corps of leaders is carrying to success the work so dear to us all.

Our women have heeded the call to the foreign field. Mrs. Kreckler spent nine years in Japan; Mrs. T. W. Woodside has scattered the Word in West Central Africa since 1888; Miss Millie Ellerding has been a missionary in Brazil; Mrs. Maude Wiest Turnbull was a missionary in India; Mrs. C. N. Dubs, Mrs. C. C. Talbott, Mrs. H. E. Voss, Mrs. W. I. Shambaugh, Miss Irene Poling, Mrs. T. L. C. Suhr and Mrs. Irving Dunlap are our own missionaries in China; Mrs. Emma Fuessle and Mrs. A. I. Ferch are returned missionaries from China.

Two tiny rivulets of beneficence start at Lindsay, Ohio, and South Chicago, Illinois, one bright October day. Other rivulets join with them as they ripple along.

Do they know whither bound, or are they but dimly conscious that the resistless impulse which carries them forward is the beckoning of the great, distant ocean? The rivulets become a running brook; verdant green and sunny skies follow in its pathway; and then, like a silver thread, the stream winds its way around the hills, through the valleys and over the plains. Ever deeper, wider and stronger it grows, carrying upon its bosom its cargo of blessing,—until it merges into the ocean of God's love,—and the tiny rivulets have come back to their source.



The Romance of Figures

When a project in which we are interested is dependent on money for its development and maintenance the figures that stand for the money have a real fascination for us. This has been especially true in our Woman's Missionary Society. Perhaps no one watched the



*Mrs. W. E. Detwiler, Treasurer of the
Woman's Missionary Society.*

climbing of the figures with greater interest than did Mrs. Lottie A. Swengel, the first treasurer, and none more pleased than she, that at the end of the first year we could count \$1,219.71 as receipts.

In the beginning of her fourth year as treasurer, Mrs. Swengel resigned the office because of removal from

Cleveland, the headquarters of the society; and Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer was appointed to fill the vacancy. At the fourth annual meeting of the society, Mrs. N. G. Schneider was elected treasurer. Before her third year in office had expired Mrs. Schneider resigned, and Mrs. Ida M. Haebele consented to serve during the remainder of the year. In 1892 Mrs. S. L. Wiest was made treasurer. Mrs. Wiest served one year, and, declining to have her name used again, the present treasurer was elected. At the close of the first ten years of the organization of the society, the receipts amounted to \$19,759.03. In the second decade the climbing of the figures was more rapid, having reached \$77,563.32 at its close. In the last five years of the twenty-five, the figures made a bound, the receipts being \$115,322.18. As is seen, the amount for the twenty-five years is \$212,644.53.

These figures are interesting, not simply because of the money for which they stand. As looked upon by the members of the society, some of them stand for the "sacrifice which is at the root of all the blossoms of goodness that have survived the wreck of Paradise." Thousands of dollars have come into the treasury by reason of self-denial practiced in March, the self-denial month. The offerings around which cluster the most pleasant memories are the November Thank-Offerings: the offerings that "reveal we have been counting our blessings and that the plant Gratitude, whose fruit is Happiness, is growing in the heart; those that, drawing us from occupation with the gifts themselves, bring us closer to the Giver of all gifts because we share them in a special way with him." The Thank-Offerings for the Silver Anniversary year were \$4,514.92.

The Thank-Offering was introduced into the society as early as 1889. The Thank-Offering box, that has been used for a number of years, was designed by Miss Emma Dittmar. Then, too, the figures, for us, are intertwined

with faith. When for the second time we began to contribute for foreign mission work, and that in the face of strong protest, we believed our church would have such work in the not distant future.

Mrs. T. L. Haines stepped out on faith when she recommended that the Mission Bands be given, as their special part of the work, the gathering of a fund for the establishment of Boarding Schools in a foreign field. The result has been, that the children have contributed \$21,360.70 for this purpose in the last sixteen years, this besides what they have given to the Hospital Fund and other of our objects.

The Hospital Fund was begun with the gifts of two friends who believed we would have hospital work in our mission. When we remember there is only one medical missionary for every two and a half million of China's suffering hundreds of millions, and that nothing breaks down prejudice like the work of the medical missionary, we are thankful that at last we have a medical missionary and a missionary nurse as part of our China Mission force; thankful that our hopes are to be realized in the establishment of a hospital in our mission. The fund secured for the purpose has reached \$24,344.13. It is a pleasing thought that baby hands have helped to make the fund what it is,—the Cradle Roll offerings being part of the sum.

Bible Women's Work has appealed strongly to the members of the society; maybe because it is preeminently women's work for women. An encouraging feature of the work is the Bible Women's Training School at Changsha. The receipts for this work have been \$3,149.58.

Realizing the need of Home Mission work in the West, whither multitudes from foreign lands flock, taking with them their foreign faith and reprehensible practices; and in the East, especially in the large towns and cities, which

are as "storm-swept seas throwing multitudes of immortal souls into the breakers of the life beyond the grave;" realizing this, the society has kept the receipts for home work well up with those for foreign work. The amount secured for home conferences has been \$32,121.56; those for western missions, \$8,181.72. Many thousands of dollars, too, have been given for local church work, generally reported under the head of Home Contingent Fund. Perhaps no one of our objects appealed to our women as did



*The Krecker Memorial Rest Home (in the front of picture)
at Kuling, China.*

the Mrs. Krecker Memorial Home. With little effort \$3,194.26 was secured for this purpose. A more fitting and beautiful memorial could not have been thought of, than that suggested by Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler,—a Summer Rest Home for our missionaries.

It is a great pleasure to know that, up and away from the heat of the city and plain, we have this summer home, standing as it does in the midst of "magnificent piles of rocks and mountains," beautiful wild flowers blooming all about, and clouds of endless variety and beauty floating above it.

A cause for congratulation is the fact that the receipts for the General Treasury (expense fund), have exceeded the expenses, except in one year, when the deficiency was made good by a friend. The receipts of the General Treasury come from the dues of the members of Auxiliaries, Young People's Missionary Societies, Mission Bands and basket offerings taken at the annual meetings. It is the privilege of the Woman's Board to appropriate, each year, the balance in the General Treasury. The appropriations go where, in the judgment of the Woman's Board, they are most needed.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Woman's Board that as an evidence of thankfulness for having been permitted to work twenty-five years, an extra silver offering should be brought to the treasury at the time of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the society, steps were taken to bring this about. Mrs. Haefele was appointed to keep the purpose before the society through the *Missionary Tidings*. Her three years of faithful service bore fruit, more especially in the few months preceding the anniversary. While the offering did not reach the aim, the earnest effort and sacrifice connected with the gathering of it made this silver offering of \$3,095.00 a beautiful one with which to crown the offerings of the twenty-five years.

A gift of five hundred dollars was given our Woman's Missionary Society in memory of its first treasurer. The interest of the five hundred dollars is to be used forever for our foreign mission work. This is a fitting memorial to one who was intensely interested in the work of our society.

One hundred dollars, in annuity form, is a gift from one of the charter members of the society. This gift is for the Bible Women's Training School, and the donor, each year, generously gives the interest for that purpose.

Our Literature

PERIODICAL LITERATURE OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

At the first annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society, September 25, 1885, a resolution was adopted requesting the Board of Missions to publish a missionary magazine. In 1886, before the Board complied with this request, the Missionary Messenger Company offered the Woman's Missionary Society a department in their paper, providing it be made the organ of their society. This offer being accepted, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer was elected editor of the department and served in this capacity for four successive years.

At the seventh annual Board meeting, the Woman's Missionary Society decided to publish their own paper in Harrisburg, Pa., under the supervision of the following ministers: Revs. S. S. Chubb, B. J. Smoyer and U. F. Swengel. Mrs. F. G. Stauffer was the editor and Mrs. Lottie Swengel and Mrs. E. Divan, associate editors. Rev. Mr. Chubb served as publisher the fore part of the year, and Rev. William Shuler the latter part.

The first number was published in January, 1892, with the name *Missionary Tidings*. The subscription price was twenty-five cents a year. At the annual Board Meeting of 1892, the Executive Committee was authorized to arrange for the publication of the *Tidings*. Mrs. Stauffer was reelected editor; Mrs. Ida Haeferle, assistant; Miss Marguerite Krecker, editor of the Mission Band Department, and Rev. F. G. Stauffer, publisher.

In January, 1893, the *Missionary Tidings* was enlarged from eight to twelve pages, and a "Mission Band Depart-

ment" was introduced. At the annual Board meeting the editor and assistant editor were reelected. Rev. S. L. Wiest, of the Evangelical Publishing Co., Harrisburg, Pa., was made publisher; 1,578 subscriptions were reported for *Tidings*. After Mrs. Stauffer's removal to the South in November of this year, Mrs. Ida Haefele became her successor. Miss Blanche Stanford was appointed assistant editor.

In August, 1894, on account of over-work and ill-health, Mrs. Haefele was compelled to resign. Mrs. Elizabeth Kreckler, our able President, edited the September number. In September Mrs. Emma Divan was elected editor, Miss Blanche Stanford and Mrs. Ida Haefele, assistant editors, all of whom continued in office until 1897, when Mrs. Blanche Stanford Becker became managing editor.

In January, 1896, another change from twelve to sixteen pages was made in the size of the *Tidings*, and fifty dollars salary was paid the editor. The publisher's report this year showed a subscription list of 2,223.

(In 1898 Mrs. Blanche Stanford Becker gave fifteen dollars for the purchase of premium books as an incentive to increased circulation.)

In 1899, Mrs. Becker resigned. Mrs. M. M. T. Fouke was elected editor. Mrs. C. N. Dubs, secretary of the Bureau of Literature, became publisher. Mrs. Ida Haefele, successor to Mrs. Fouke, served as editor from 1899 to June, 1902.

In April, 1900, Mrs. C. Newton Dubs' farewell appears in the *Tidings* as follows: "Our appointment to China now makes it necessary for me to lay down the work of our Bureau of Literature. When I took the work, in 1896, little did I think that the step would lead to mission work in a larger field. I seemed to have found my work and took keen pleasure in my department, because

they were the means of spreading missionary intelligence. However,

“‘There is a divinity that shapes our ends
Rough hew them as we may.’

“And so, we have accepted the call of God and humbly take up the work of bringing the glad news of salvation to the poor, benighted Chinese.” Mrs. Charles Shaffer succeeded Mrs. Dubs as publisher. At the Board Meeting this year it was decided to give space for Young People’s Missionary Society work. Mrs. Blanche Becker was elected publisher.

In 1901 another enlargement of the *Tidings* resulted in twenty pages. The editor’s salary was fixed at \$125, with \$25 additional for expenses. The publisher’s salary was made \$75. Mrs. Haeefele was reelected editor and Mrs. H. H. Smith, of Mohnsville, Pa., was made publisher.

In June, 1902, upon the resignation of Mrs. Haeefele as editor, Miss Estella Hartzler, Harrisburg, Pa., was appointed. She served in this capacity until October, 1909. In October, 1902, 4,467 subscriptions were reported. The publisher’s salary was raised to \$100.00. It was decided that the November number of the *Tidings* be enlarged only as much as necessary to include a condensed report of the Woman’s Board. This year the 5,000 mark in subscriptions was passed.

(In June, 1904, the editor, Miss Hartzler, was married to Mr. Steinmetz.)

In April, 1905, our publisher died. Her husband, Rev. H. H. Smith, kindly consented to act as publisher during her illness and until the close of the year. At the Board meeting the offices of Secretary of Bureau of Literature, publisher of *Tidings* and publisher of the *Gem*, were combined. Miss Lillian Græff was elected to this important position. Editor’s and publisher’s salaries for this year

were paid out of the general treasury fund. The latter part of 1906 the editor's and publisher's salaries were paid from subscriptions, with a small cash balance. There were 7,002 subscriptions to *Tidings* at this time. Miss Carrie V. Neitz became editor of the four extra pages in the *Tidings* devoted to Young People's work, in October of 1907.

After seven years of service, in 1909, on account of the condition of her eyes, Mrs. Steinmetz was obliged to resign as editor. Miss Anna Crowell, of York, Pa., was elected to succeed her. Miss Carrie V. Neitz was reelected editor of the Young People's Department; Miss Lillian Græff was reelected publisher. At this point, it will prove of interest to show the fine growth in the subscription list of *Tidings*. Suffice it to say that in 1893 the subscribers numbered 1,578, and that this list had climbed to 8,226 by the year 1909.

BUREAU OF LITERATURE

In August, 1887, at their third annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, the Woman's Missionary Society passed a resolution that a bureau of exchange should be established for the distribution of missionary literature among the auxiliaries. The same year the foundation for the bureau was laid in the gift of a series of missionary leaflets and tracts.

In 1888 it was recommended that a bureau of exchange and a district manager be established on each district. Mrs. Lottie A. Swengel was appointed to purchase and supply literature for the auxiliaries.

In 1890 the monthly envelope system and the quarterly envelope plan were adopted. This year marked the beginning of Thank-Offering money for the Woman's Missionary Society. One-half of the receipts were given to the Bureau of Literature. Mrs. F. G. Stauffer, of Cleveland, Ohio, succeeded Mrs. Swengel as superintendent

of the Bureau. In 1892 she reported receipts of Bureau to be \$26.40. Mrs. Ada B. Collins was elected superintendent in 1892. Constitutions were printed for auxiliaries and Mission Bands in 1893. Report blanks and Foreign Mission pledge cards were printed the following year. Mrs. H. H. Rassweiler was elected superintendent, and Mrs. Collins, assistant superintendent. September, 1895, Mrs. C. N. Dubs became superintendent and Mrs. Collins was reelected.

In 1896 a committee of publication was appointed; Mrs. Dubs was made chairman. The Board recommended that each auxiliary be asked to appropriate not less than one dollar annually to the Bureau. During this year three thousand leaflets were printed for free distribution.

In 1897 Mrs. Dubs was reelected superintendent. The Executive Committee were asked to prepare a leaflet entitled "Hints and Helps for Auxiliaries." Self-denial envelopes, "World Penny Helper," designed by Miss Emma Ditmar, of Williamsport, Pa., and the little "Banks of Blessing," designed by Mrs. T. L. Haines, for the Mission Bands, were included in the Bureau supplies this year.

In 1898 the Scriptural Thank-Offering Box, designed by Miss Emma Ditmar, was introduced. Another new feature was a Cradle Roll outfit including Cradle Roll Certificates, Record Book and a leaflet on Cradle Roll work. New Mission Band report blanks, organization report blanks, and topic cards were printed. The publishing of *Missionary Tidings* was placed under the supervision of the Bureau of Literature. It was decided that Self-denial envelopes be provided for Young People's Society and Mission Band use.

In December of 1899, Wall Charts, containing the Mission Band prayer, creed, pledge and benediction, were placed on sale by the bureau.

In January, 1900, Mrs. T. L. Haines prepared the first copy of an illustrated leaflet, to be published monthly in the interest of Young People's Societies and Mission Bands. In April of this year, the superintendent of the Bureau of Literature accepted a call as missionary to China. At Mrs. Dubs' resignation, the Board decided to separate the two departments of superintendent of the Bureau of Literature and Publisher of the *Tidings*, to make the work less burdensome.

Mrs. W. J. Gruhler, of Germantown, Pa., was appointed superintendent of the Bureau of Literature, and in September of the same year, duly elected. July, 1900,—

Extract from an editorial in "Tidings": "To perpetuate the memory of a departed loved mother, and to further the cause we so much love, I make this gift to the Woman's Missionary Society of our church." This is the reason Mrs. W. J. Gruhler, Superintendent of Bureau of Literature, gives for her beautiful act in placing at the disposal of the Woman's Missionary Society the "Memorial Circulating Library," then numbering forty volumes.

Mrs. Fouke was appointed to prepare the *Illustrated Leaflet*. In 1901 it was decided that the Bureau provide the Mission Band with pledge cards, prepared by the General Superintendent, Mrs. Haines.

In October, 1902, the Executive Committee joined with the United Study of Missions. Their action was endorsed and the Mission Study Text books were added to the Bureau of Literature. Great interest was aroused through the Memorial Circulating Library, which now numbered seventy-two volumes. Mrs. Fouke was re-elected editor of the *Illustrated Leaflet*. The Board instructed the Bureau of Literature to furnish district organizers a supply of helps, annually, the cost not to exceed one dollar for each organizer.

In 1903, Rev. A. W. Shenberger presented the Bureau

with a book, entitled "Reminiscences of a Minister's Wife," written by the late Mrs. Shenberger,—receipts of its sale to go to our foreign fund. The "Beautiful Life of Mrs. Elizabeth Kreckler," by her daughter, Miss Ada Marie Kreckler, was published by the Bureau. The Memorial Circulating Library at this time numbered one hundred volumes.

In 1904, Mrs. Jennie Noot was appointed editor of the *Illustrated Leaflet*. The following year the *Leaflet* was discontinued, as the *Gem* supplied that need.

In 1905 the Board decided that the work of the Superintendent of Bureau of Literature, Publisher of *Tidings*, and Publisher of the *Gem*, be combined, and that one person be elected for this work, to be granted a salary of three hundred dollars. Miss Lillian Græff, of Lebanon, Pa., was elected to this office of Secretary and Publisher of Literature, the Memorial Circulating Library remaining in charge of the General Librarian, Mrs. Grubler. We must note here that circulating libraries are used by several of the Conference Branches, and prove very helpful.

Believing that even though a little thing, it would be an incentive to endeavor, in 1906 it was recommended that some suitable emblem, expressive of our work, be adopted. Miss Lillian Græff and Miss Carrie Bordlemay were appointed to select a design to be used as a stamp upon our literature and as an emblematic pin. At this Board meeting three hundred dollars were appropriated from the Bureau to the Kreckler Memorial Home at Kuling, China. Other expenses were paid from the Bureau funds. The Secretary and Publisher's salary was increased fifty dollars.

In April, 1907, the Banks of Blessing were replaced by pretty Chinese mite boxes, designed by Miss Emma Dittmar. Our emblem, designed by Miss Laura Stanford (now Mrs. Wm. Gorsuch) made its appearance this

month. The pins were of three grades. Another addition to our literature department was a set of twenty-three cards bearing pictures of our Chinese Mission work.

In 1908 Home Department envelopes, Cradle Roll envelopes, and treasurer's blanks were printed. The sum of \$172.54 was paid out of the Bureau funds for paper-



*Miss Lillian Graeff, Secretary and Publisher of
Literature.*

ing, painting and furnishing the Woman's Board rooms in the Publishing House. Miss Graeff was reelected Secretary and Publisher of Literature, with a salary of five hundred dollars.

In 1909, there was a greatly increasing demand for Mission Study books, maps and pictures. The Memorial Circulating Library contained one hundred and fifty mis-

sionary books. Since its establishment, Mrs. Gruhler has met all of its expenses. At this time seven Branch Libraries, containing over 350 volumes, were in existence. Cards were printed to be used for soliciting new members for the auxiliaries. The total receipts of the Bureau this year were \$924.74, as compared with \$26.40, in 1891. The following is a list of leaflets published by the bureau:

<i>Subject.</i>	<i>Author.</i>	<i>Date.</i>
How Silas and Me Sent \$50 to the Regular Illinois Conference, ..	Mrs. M. M. T. Fouke, ..	1894
Bible Incentives to Foreign Mis- sions, ...	Miss Virgie Thomas, ...	1895
The Women of India, ...	Miss Carrie Bordlemay, ..	1895
True and False Conceptions of Missionary Work, ...	Mrs. Maud Frank, ...	1895
Undeveloped Forces, ...	Mrs. T. L. Haines, ...	1895
Hints and Helps for Auxiliaries, ..	Executive Committee, ...	1897
Hints and Helps for Auxiliaries, translated into German by Rev. E. Mueller, ...		1898
Western Missions, ...	Mrs. A. W. Shenberger, ..	1897
Missions in Bible Lands, ...	Mrs. W. E. Detwiler, ...	1897
Missionary Chickens, ...	Miss Carrie Bordlemay, ..	1897
"Shira," a Little India Girl, ...	Miss Carrie Bordlemay, ..	1897
Louie's Opportunity, ...	Mrs. B. S. Becker, ...	1897
Startling Disclosures, ...	Rev. U. F. Swengel.	
Life of Mary L. Whately, ...	Mrs. T. L. Haines, ...	1898
Illustrated Leaflets, ...	Mrs. T. L. Haines, ...	1900
Illustrated Leaflets (Continued), ..	Mrs. Fouke, ...	1900-1904
Illustrated Leaflets (Continued), ..	Mrs. J. Noot, ...	1904
Awakening of China, ...		
Mission Band Scripture Tract, ...	Rev. W. F. Heil, ...	1900
Song, "Her Mission,"	Mrs. Stahler, ...	1905
Bright Glory, ...	Miss Marie Hasenpflug, ..	1906
The Last Command, ...	Miss Verne Edwards, ...	1906
Louie's Opportunity (reprinted), ..		1906
Our Need, ...	Miss Carrie Neitz, ...	1907
Missionary Home Department, ..	Mrs. I. R. Rehm, ...	1907
Missionary Cradle Roll, ...	Mrs. I. R. Rehm, ...	1907
Set of five leaflets on "Mission Band Work and Mission Band Meetings," (Monthly, Public and Special), ...	Mrs. T. L. Haines, ...	1907
Deaconess Work Leaflet — "Lil- lian's Vocation,"	Miss S. Elsie Bentz, ...	1908

With this store of splendid missionary literature,—East, West, North, South,—what cannot our auxiliaries accomplish?

PERIODICAL LITERATURE OF THE MISSION BAND

The need for a Mission Band paper began to be felt at the annual Board meeting of 1889. Miss Marguerite Kreckler was elected editor of the Mission Band Department in the *Missionary Tidings*, in 1892.

In 1893 the Board recommended that a four-page children's paper be published. Miss Kreckler was its editor. It was called *The Mission Band Evangelical*, and was quite helpful to the children.

In September, 1894, it was decided to discontinue the *Mission Band Evangelical*, and accept the offer of the Evangelical Publishing Company to give the Mission Band a page in the *Missionary Evangelical*. Miss Kreckler was editor of this page. The worth of this paper was appreciated, yet the Mission Band leaders wanted one that would be devoted solely to the interests of the Bands.

In 1897, Mrs. Vincent, *nee*, Miss Kreckler, was unanimously reelected editor of the Mission Band Department and continued in office until 1903.

In 1903 the committee on children's paper and the Executive Committee met and elected Mrs. M. M. T. Fouke editor and publisher. The first number was issued in May, 1904, under the title of the *Missionary Gem*. The subscription price was twenty cents a year to a single address, or ten cents per year, if sent in a package of ten or more to one address. The sum of \$100 was allowed for editing and publishing the *Gem*.

The *Illustrated Leaflet* was discontinued in 1905, the editor of the *Gem* providing a program for the use of the Mission Bands. The editor's salary was fixed at \$50.

Miss Græff, the newly elected secretary and publisher of literature was made publisher of the *Gem*.

Note the growth of the subscription list: In 1905, the list was 2,712; and in 1909 this number was increased to 6,879.

Many pictures are published each year, each child raising \$5 for China being entitled to have his picture in the *Gem*.

January, 1906. The picture of a ladder was published, with 12 rungs, one for each month; object to increase the *Gem* circulation to 5,000. January, 1907, ladder showed 142 short of reaching the aim, but a net gain of 1,918 was very commendable.

March, 1907. A thermometer was published, taking place of ladder, the mercury recording new subscriptions received monthly. Aim set was 1,000; October report shows the thermometer "broken," as 1,057 new subscribers were added in six and one-half months' time.

January, 1908. A step-mounting plan introduced, with a pennant floating at the top; aim, 7,000.

June 9, 1908. The anniversary of founding of our China Mission celebrated by a subscription shower, 400 being added to *Gem* list.

An extract from General Superintendent's annual report to Woman's Board, in 1909:

"The *Missionary Gem* is truly a treasure to our Bands, helpful to leaders and children alike. * * * I have noticed that reading it always has a stimulating effect. We are more than grateful to the Woman's Board for giving us this splendid help, and also to Mrs. Fouke, who edits the paper in such a delightful way."

Sketches of Our Leading Women

I have in my library a book entitled, "Eminent Women of the Age." At the time of the writing of the book, it was thought that though the world was full of books that warranted the deeds and uttered the praises of men; and though many things had been written by, and for



*Mrs. S. P. Remer, President of the Woman's
Missionary Society.*

women, and much information had been published in respect to eminent women, there was not in existence any work which supplied the information that this particular book proposed to give:—an attractive record of the lives and achievements of certain distinguished women. In this record of eminent women, I cannot find one who

had made herself famous for her interest in missionary work.

In this chapter, we shall glance at the record of the women in our church who were called to be leaders in our Woman's Missionary Society.

Mrs. S. A. O. Herlacher, Mrs. Sarah S. Hartzler, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer and Mrs. H. B. Hartzler were the first to ask for the announcement of a meeting of the women of Calvary Church, Cleveland, Ohio, in the year 1878, to talk of the organization of a Woman's Missionary Society.

Much of the power that controls the workings of valuable machinery is hidden out of sight: even so, some of those most deeply interested in the establishment of this work among the women of the church, have received very little mention in the annals of the society.

Mrs. S. A. O. Herlacher, a daughter of the Rev. W. W. Orwig, was one of these almost hidden, yet invaluable, forces in the organization of our Missionary Society. As was said of the father in connection with the general missionary enterprises of the church,—“He was one of the *founders* of the Missionary Society;” and as was again said of him, “His gifts were manifold, and all were given to the service of the church:”—so may it be said of the daughter. Mrs. Herlacher took part in the preliminary meeting in Cleveland, and also in the W. M. S. Conference as conducted in the columns of the *Evangelical Messenger*, May 23, 1878.

Mrs. S. L. Wiest, wife of the Rev. S. L. Wiest, publisher of our Evangelical literature, and sister of Mrs. Herlacher, who was also among the first to advocate the organization of a Woman's Missionary Society,—was a member of the ever-to-be-remembered Cleveland Society, and of the “first convention.” She, too, belonged to that quiet, yet powerful force that worked so faithfully for the advancement of the missionary cause in our church.

Mrs. Wiest was the first life-member enrolled. She held the office of Corresponding Secretary in the General Society for two years, and later was elected general treasurer, and for several years was a member of the Executive Committee.

Mrs. Sarah S. Hartzler is another of those remembered as pioneers in the work. From 1878 Mrs. Hartzler was among the number that worked on steadily in the face of difficulties and opposition, until the year 1880, when she, with her husband, the Rev. Jacob Hartzler, were appointed missionaries to Japan; the husband to become superintendent of the mission. After a number of years of earnest service as a foreign missionary, on their return to the homeland, Mrs. Hartzler again became an active worker, delivering addresses and taking much part in the work of the General Society; she helped to create a deeper interest. As president of local societies, she did very much to advance the cause.

I shall never forget an afternoon I spent in her home at Lewisburg, Pa. Though not very intimately acquainted then with Mrs. Hartzler, she, by her gentle, loving manner, made me feel that years of intimate association were not necessary to reveal to me her beautiful Christian character. Mrs. Hartzler's name was the first to be enrolled as an honorary member of our Woman's Missionary Society in Central Pennsylvania Conference Branch. In company with her loved co-workers in the foreign field,—Dr. and Mrs. Kreckler,—she now rests from all her labors in heaven.

At the organization of the society, October 13, 1884, the following named women were chosen as officers of the society: President, Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, of Cleveland, Ohio; first vice-president, Mrs. H. C. Smith, of Naperville, Illinois; second vice president, Mrs. Thomas Bowman, of Allentown, Pennsylvania; third vice president, Miss Minerva Strawman, of Lindsay, Ohio; record-

ing secretary, Miss Emma L. Yost, of Cleveland, Ohio; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. H. Hammer, of Cleveland, Ohio; treasurer, Mrs. U. F. Swengel, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Lottie Anthony Swengel was born of French-German parentage, in Jersey Shore, Pa., September 12, 1849. She was converted at the age of sixteen, and received into the Methodist Episcopal Church. On August 24, 1875, she was united in holy wedlock with Rev. U. F. Swengel, of the Central Pennsylvania Conference, and with him bravely shared the toil until November 11, 1896,—at eleven minutes past eleven, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month,—at the parsonage of the Memorial Church, Baltimore, Maryland, she fell asleep in Jesus, at the age of 47 years, 1 month and 29 days. In Prospect Hill Cemetery, at York, Pa., her mortal body is resting, awaiting the call of the last trumpet.

Sister Swengel was a woman of much native capacity, good sound sense, practical wisdom, strength and symmetry of character, womanly dignity, gentleness and kindness. Her father gave her the advantage of instruction in instrumental music, in which she became very proficient. When the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle was organized in 1878, she became a member of the "Pioneer Class," which finished the course in 1882. She obtained a standing of nearly 100 in the final examination, also held a certificate of graduation in the Pioneer Normal Class of the Central Pa. Conference. She had an enviable faculty for enlisting others in work with her for the Master, and in adjusting differences between those among whom she labored.

Sister Swengel was one of the charter members of the Woman's Missionary Society of our church. She was the first treasurer, serving almost three years. As a member of the Executive Committee she also rendered valuable service. In 1889 the society decided to establish

a Literary Bureau, and Sister Swengel was appointed as its head. No one seemed to know just what this new department ought to be. After much prayerful inquiry and consideration, she selected a number of tracts and announced the Bureau open. When the *Missionary Messenger* was turned from its proper course by alien hands, Sister Swengel, in her annual report, suggested the use of a quarterly envelope. This was found to be such an excellent arrangement that it has been continued ever since. The Bureau has become indispensable. Before her departure she longed to give one more proof of her love for missions. It was accordingly arranged that the sum of \$500 should be given in her name, through the local Woman's Missionary Society, to the Board of Missions, for a permanent foreign mission fund. This was her last offering to God for the extension of the kingdom of his Son, and provides for a perpetual annual contribution through which her hand will keep in touch with mission work and workers till Jesus comes. During the meeting of the Board of Missions in the Memorial Church, in October, 1896, Sister Swengel arranged to have the officers of the Woman's Board of Missions take tea at her table, although she was unable to preside there herself. She then asked that they be brought into her room and around her bed. After brief conversation and prayer by Mrs. Elizabeth Krecker, she bade her friends a last farewell, rejoicing in the hope of meeting again.

Some time before her death she wrote to a dear friend: "I find it very pleasant now to look over the years we have consecrated to the Lord. We shall never forget the early work in the formation of our loved Woman's Missionary Society. How we struggled and wept and prayed that we might be able to do some work that should bear good fruit.

"How well I remember the little contributions that came into our treasury while I was the early guardian of

that department. What a pleasure it now is to see that a single annual conference contributes more than the entire church did then. And yet these are only beginnings of the work that will be done by our beloved society. It seems to me that the Woman's Missionary Society will contribute to our joy after the bounds of time have long passed. Does not the Word tell us: 'They shall rest from their labors and their works do follow them'? If we ever did a good work in our lives it was in the organization of that society."

Mrs. E. J. Y. Preyer, daughter of the Rev. William Yost, treasurer of the Parent Missionary Society, inherited from her father an earnest missionary spirit, much natural ability as a leader, and a mind that had been carefully educated. She served with great acceptability as president of the society this first year, and the following year as vice-president. In 1886 she was elected editor of the Woman's Department of the *Missionary Messenger*; for four years Mrs. Preyer continued her work as editor. In 1890, with her husband, she moved to the South, and could no longer continue on the active list of society and church. That which she accomplished in the several capacities in which she served, cannot be too highly commended. From her home in South Carolina she still watches with interest the progress of our Woman's Missionary Society. Mrs. Preyer is now actively engaged in the temperance cause, and has been chosen editor of a temperance magazine.

Mrs. H. B. Hartzler, our second president, was elected in 1885, and continued for five years in this position. During the five years spent in Northfield, Mass., Mrs. Hartzler, through loving messages and financial remembrances, manifested her continued interest in the society. Since their return from Massachusetts, during the Rev. H. B. Hartzler's term of office as editor of the *Evangelical*, and later in his position of senior Bishop of the

church, Mrs. Hartzler's interest in the work remains unchanged. She was, for a number of years, a member of the Executive Committee of the Woman's Board of Missions, and for one year Superintendent of Young People's Missionary Societies; but aside from this, because of failing health, she does not now occupy any position in the Board of General Officers, but in countless ways her influence is widely felt.



Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler

Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler, of Naperville, Illinois, succeeded to the office of president in 1890, continuing in that office for three years, then becoming vice-president.

Mrs. Rassweiler was an ideal president, being possessed of rare executive ability; as a frequent delegate to annual meetings of the Woman's Board, and as an active worker in Illinois Conference Branch she continues to exert great influence.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kreckler, of most precious memory, is next in order, as one of the leading women of the Wo-

man's Board of Missions, and as the fourth president of the society. Of Mrs. Kreckler it may be most truthfully said, she is the one woman who, for many years, had more to do with the moulding of missionary sentiment in the hearts of the entire church, than any who had gone before or any of those who follow.

As the *first lady* missionary to a heathen country from our church, may we not regard her as the *leading* woman in our organization? Since at that time of the going of Dr. and Mrs. Kreckler to Japan, the spirit of missions took hold of the hearts of the sisterhood of the church, as never before, resulting finally in the organization of the Woman's Board of Missions.

In 1876 we find her, with her husband, Dr. Frederick Kreckler and their three children, en-route for Japan.

Eight years of her precious life were spent in the Sunrise Kingdom; beautiful, fruitful years were they,—yet withal years of great sacrifice and self-denial,—years of joy in the service of her Lord, as well as unspeakable sorrow,—for on April 26, 1883, Dr. Kreckler yielded up his life,—“taken when his best work seemed yet to be done.” Mrs. Kreckler's first thought when passing through this great sorrow was, “*I have nothing more to live for.*” But the blessed Holy Spirit, *her Comforter*, whispered, “Live for the souls around you who sit in darkness,—*live for Me.*” Her response was, “By thy grace, for thee I will live.”

For two years she remained in Japan, winning precious souls for God, and for herself the name of being the best lady missionary in Japan.

In 1885 she bade farewell to Japan and again crossed the ocean on her return to the home-land.

Her service for the Woman's Missionary Society began in the winter of 1886, as she went from church to church telling of missionary work in Japan. She also attended the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary

Society in Naperville, Ill. From that year until 1904, Mrs. Krecker's life was closely linked with our Missionary Society,—serving three years as vice-president, and from 1890, to the close of her life, in 1904, as General Organizer, and from 1892 to 1904 as president of the organization.



Our Sainted Mrs. Elizabeth Krecker

For a fuller account of her devoted life and peaceful, triumphant death, we refer you to the book entitled "The Beautiful Life of Elizabeth Krecker." "Over the marvelous Crystal River she passed to the fadeless grandeur of the City of Light, where a long-loved husband awaited her victorious coming; where all the company of the redeemed greeted her with the sublime welcomes of

celestial rejoicing; where a mansion was prepared for her in her Father's house—and where, among the indescribable glories of the spirit-world, which eye hath not seen nor ear heard, her magnified life, untrammelled with earthly limitations, free in the measureless freedom of high heaven, shall flower to a rarer bloom than is known in the fairest gardens of God's beautiful earth."

"Gone into heaven," was the appropriate text of the sermon preached at her funeral by the Rev. Jacob Hartzler, for a number of years Superintendent of Japan Mission, and as such closely associated with the Krecker family in Japan.

Mrs. S. P. Remer, of the Central Pa. Conference Branch, succeeded to the office of president. Time and space will not permit an extended account of the splendid service rendered the society by all of those who served as General Officers; yet this chapter would not be complete without a passing glance at the work of the most prominent of those who, in the beginning, rendered such acceptable assistance. From 1884 to 1890 it was thought best to place at the head of the Board of officers a president and three vice-presidents.

Mrs. H. C. Smith, of Naperville, Ill., served for five consecutive years as president. She was also one of "the seven petitioners" appointed to prepare a letter of appeal to the General Conference held in Allentown, Pa., in 1883. Mrs. W. H. Hammer, Mrs. E. Y. Preyer and Mrs. H. B. Hartzler, of Cleveland, Ohio; and Miss Minerva Strawman, of Lindsay, Ohio; Mrs. W. C. Kantner, of Terre Hill, Pa., and Mrs. S. P. Spreng, of Centreville, Ohio, were the other members of that famous committee.

After the *reorganization* of that part of the society that worked under the supervision of, and in connection with, the Board of Missions of the Evangelical Association, Mrs. Smith was elected to the office of Mission Band Superintendent. At this "parting of the ways," we are

unable to follow closely the history of many of the women connected with the society from the beginning. The *Missionary Messenger*, the official organ of that division of the once united Missionary Society, gives substantial proof, however, of the continued activity of many of them.

Miss Minerva Strawman was the first recording secretary of the organization and a member of the first local organization, and had much to do with the General Society. In an appeal made by her to the sisters of the church, through the columns of the *Evangelical Messenger*, in 1880, she closed with these words:—"And now, dear sisters, a wide field for doing good opens before us. Let us bestir ourselves, unite our efforts, and rally around the cross. When you have read this, do not lay it aside and say, 'It is a good work, I hope the sisters will take it up'—but go to work yourself."

Mrs. W. H. Hammer was the first corresponding secretary, which position she held for four consecutive years.

The *Missionary Messenger*, noting the change wrought in the office of corresponding secretary, referred to Mrs. Hammer's work thus: "Much of the present standing of the Woman's Missionary Society is due to the hard work of Mrs. Hammer, beginning several years before the general organization of the Woman's Missionary Society and continuing to the present time; working mostly under the disadvantage of a frail body, she has nevertheless not grown weary in well doing. She has earned the appreciation of all interested in our work, and she has it, too."

From the year 1884 to 1890 the following named ladies served as recording secretaries: Miss Emma L. Yost, of Cleveland, Ohio, one year; Mrs. S. S. Condo, one year; Mrs. S. P. Spreng, one year, and Mrs. Charles Baltz, two years. As corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. F. Rassweiler succeeded Mrs. Hammer and continued one year; Mrs. S. F. Entorf, one year.

As treasurer, Mrs. Lottie Swengel was the first incumbent, and continued for four years, and was followed by Mrs. Nellie Good Schneider, who was in office until 1891.

Mrs. T. L. Haines, at the first annual meeting, held in Lindsay, Ohio, in 1885, offered the first recommendation favoring children's organizations. To her interest in the children, and in the organization of Mission Bands, is due, we believe, this fact that in the year following the recommendation that Mission Bands be organized, seven Mission Bands were reported, and in 1887, eighteen. In 1888 Mrs. Haines was appointed by the Executive Committee to take general supervision of children's work, and in 1889 she was elected Superintendent of Mission Bands. For nineteen years Mrs. Haines successfully carried forward this beautiful work. In 1897 she was also elected vice-president of the organization.

As Superintendent of Mission Bands Mrs. Haines' work cannot be too highly commended. In 1908, very reluctantly, the Woman's Board accepted her resignation, and her daughter, Mrs. I. R. Rehm, became her successor. Mrs. Rehm also served as Cradle Roll and Home Department Superintendent.

Beginning with the year 1902, Mrs. R. G. Munday, of Chicago, served as Cradle Roll and Home Department Superintendent for one year. Mrs. J. W. Thompson, of Harrisburg, Pa., is now the earnest, devoted, successful superintendent of these last-named departments.

In 1892, Mrs. S. P. Remer, of Central Pa. Conference Branch, was elected recording secretary, and Mrs. W. M. Stanford, of East Pa. Conference Branch, corresponding secretary. Mrs. Remer served for a term of eleven years; Mrs. Stanford served two years, and was succeeded by Mrs. B. F. Bowman, of East Pa. Conference Branch, who served two years, and was succeeded by Miss Carrie Bordlemay, of East Pa. Branch, in 1896. Miss Bordlemay (now Mrs. Basom) was, for one year,

Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's Board; attended the Board as a delegate, and for quite a few years was president of the East Pennsylvania Conference Branch Woman's Missionary Society. She is a pleasing public speaker. From this date to the present, but one officer, called a General Secretary, has recorded the proceedings of the annual meetings of the Woman's Boards, the secretary of the Executive Committee having charge of a part of the society's correspondence.

Mrs. Ida M. Haefele, of Illinois Conference Branch, was elected General Secretary in 1904, succeeding Mrs. S. P. Remer.

Mrs. W. E. Detwiler, of Central Pa. Conference Branch, was elected third vice-president in 1885, and continued in this position two years. As treasurer of the Woman's Board, since 1893 to the present date, 1910, Mrs. Detwiler has become known throughout the organization as an ideal treasurer, careful, painstaking and faithful. Mrs. W. M. Stanford preceded her for one year.

Mrs. Stanford is one of those who remained in Calvary Church, Cleveland, Ohio, bowed in earnest prayer while the petitioners went from them to the Board of Missions, and she well deserves a place among the leading women of the organization. She, with a goodly number of others, may be counted among those who for twenty-five years have been closely identified with the progress of our Woman's Missionary Society. How I wish that a complete list of the names of these faithful workers from the year of our Lord, 1884, to this year of grace, 1910, might be given somewhere in the pages of this little book.

Very little has been said thus far of those placed in charge, from time to time, of the literary or educational part of the work.

In 1892, our new missionary magazine, *The Mission-*

ary Tidings, was established, with Mrs. F. G. Stauffer as editor. For the space of two years Mrs. Stauffer carried forward this branch of work very successfully. The removal of the family to the South in 1893, compelled her to give up the work she so delighted in.

Mrs. Emma Divan, of Illinois Conference Branch, was her able successor. Mrs. Divan was a model editor, and



*Mrs. Emma Divan, General Superintendent of
Oratorical Contest Work.*

for four years she, through the *Missionary Tidings*, touched the hearts of the sisterhood. She is one of our leading women, who has come before the church and the Woman's Board in various capacities, and doing so admirably in all, that one scarcely knows how best to speak of her:—as an editor, she gave beautiful proof of her ability; as a public speaker or preacher, she is eloquent and convincing; as president of the Branch Society to

which she belongs,—by her continuous reelection, we know her as a capable president.

Mrs. M. M. T. Fouke edited *Missionary Tidings* for one year (1898-1899). Mrs. Fouke comes before us in so many different capacities, that I find it difficult to make a beginning. She was the organizer of the very first local missionary society. As an editor, she has gone almost "round the circle" of our publications. The *Illustrated Leaflet*, for the use of Mission Bands, was edited by her until the *Missionary Gem* was given to the children for their very own, with Mrs. Fouke as its editor.

Mrs. Ida M. Haefele, of Illinois Branch, was elected editor of *Tidings*, in October, 1899, Mrs. Fouke being seriously ill at that time, her editorship could not be considered. Mrs. Haefele, as an editor, was unsurpassed. She continued her editorial work to July, 1902, when Miss Estella K. Hartzler was appointed by the Executive Committee to edit the magazine for the remainder of the year. I can do no better than quote Miss Hartzler, as she writes of the work of her predecessor: "Her bright, keen thought, her discernment and tact, her untiring activity,—in fact, her whole charming personality made of the *Tidings* an interesting paper indeed."

Miss Hartzler, coming to us from the ranks of our young people, received a warm welcome. Later on in her term of office, which continued uninterruptedly for seven years, she was known to us as Mrs. Estella K. Steinmetz. On account of serious trouble with her eyes, Mrs. Steinmetz asked to be released, and Miss Anna M. Crowell, of York, Pa., now succeeds her, having been chosen for this responsible position at the meeting of the Woman's Board, in Allentown, Pa., October 1909.

From every side have come expressions of approval and appreciation of the service rendered by her thus far as an editor.

A Bureau of Literature was established very early in the history of the society, and Mrs. Lottie Swengel placed in charge. Mrs. Swengel saw great opportunities for education in missionary interests in this department, and laid for her successors a good foundation. Mrs. Ada B. Collins and Mrs. H. H. Rassweiler, both of Naperville, Ill., had charge of the work jointly for a time.

As the chrysalis is finally merged into the beautiful butterfly, so the literature department has developed and grown into wider and still wider fields of usefulness under the management of its several superintendents.

In 1896, Mrs. C. N. Dubs, of Harrisburg, Pa., was elected Superintendent of Literature, and also Publisher of *Missionary Tidings*. Under her careful management the literature department had a wonderful growth,—and as publisher, Mrs. Dubs surprised and delighted us all. For four years she had charge of these two departments. Suffice it to say, Mrs. Dubs is possessed of such qualities as made her most successful in all her lines of work.

Mrs. W. J. Gruhler, of Germantown, Pa., succeeded Mrs. Dubs in the Department of Literature, and Mrs. Charles Shaffer, of Harrisburg, Pa., as Publisher. Mrs. Gruhler not only attended promptly and faithfully to all the details of her work, insuring its continued growth and helpfulness, but by the establishment and gift of the Memorial Circulating Library, added a new, very important feature to the department. Mrs. Gruhler's beloved mother has passed over into that glorious beyond, but she lives and exerts a wide influence among the church sisterhood through this beautiful gift of her daughter. Mrs. Gruhler asked to be relieved of the work of the Department of Literature in 1905, but continues to have charge of the Circulating Library, to which she is frequently making generous and valuable additions. As a member of the Executive Committee of the Woman's Board and in various other capacities, both in the

General Society and in East Pa. Branch, she is widely and favorably known.

Mrs. Charles Shaffer, as publisher for one year, won the esteem and confidence of her co-laborers by her careful, faithful attendance to the details of the work. Impaired health necessitated her retirement from office.



*Mrs. W. J. Gruhler, General Librarian of the
Woman's Missionary Society.*

Mrs. H. H. Smith, of East Pa. Branch, was chosen publisher in 1901; and though a frail little woman, she, in connection with the many duties that come to a minister's wife, attended conscientiously to her work as publisher. Those of us who learned to know Mrs. Smith personally, recall her gentle ways and her beautiful Christian character. April 29th, 1905, the Master called her, and she went away from her loved ones, into the blessed eternal rest. Her husband, the Rev. H. H. Smith, counted it a

privilege to continue the work in her name, when Miss Lillian Græff, of Lebanon, Pa., was elected Secretary and Publisher of Literature. As we note the change in the name of the work entrusted to Miss Græff, let us also notice that her field of labor was greatly enlarged, taking in every publication of the society, as well as the selection and sending out of leaflets, etc. Miss Græff's interest in her work is manifest in the careful and appropriate selection of leaflets and other missionary literature, as well as in the presentation of new thoughts and plans for the advancement of the work.

The department of literature has so developed under the careful management of all those in whose care it has been placed, that very soon the plans for the work will have to be materially changed.

Among the women who have taken a foremost part in the moulding of missionary sentiment, Mrs. Marguerite Kreckler Vincent has won for herself a very prominent place. Mrs. Vincent, the gifted daughter of our dear Mrs. Kreckler, was chosen editor of the Mission Band department of the *Missionary Evangelical*, in 1894. For fourteen years she gladly rendered very acceptable service in this branch of work among the children. Mrs. Vincent has the honor of having continued in active service in the duties assigned her, longer than any other in any position in the gift of the organization, save Mrs. T. L. Haines, our pioneer Mission Band Superintendent.

And now let us look toward some of the leaders among our young people.

In 1890 the first Junior Society was organized, and in 1893 Miss Myra Reinoehl, of Reading, Pa., was elected superintendent of this new department of work. It is recorded of Miss Reinoehl that her *first* work was to organize a society in her home congregation. With such a beginning, it is needless for me to say, Miss Reinoehl did

her best for the work entrusted to her for two consecutive years.

Mrs. E. E. Adams, of Lock Haven, Pa., was the second superintendent, serving one year acceptably.

Miss Carrie V. Neitz, of Reading, Pa., editor of the Young People's Missionary Department in *Missionary Tidings*, gives us this glimpse into her useful life:

"Through the influence of a Christian home and godly parents I gave my heart to God when nine years of age. My father, the sainted Rev. Solomon Neitz, deeply impressed on my young mind the beauty of Christian living, and I gave cheerful and happy service as organist in Sunday-school and church, as well as in committee work there and in the Christian Endeavor Society. My father deplored the fact that at the age of sixty-four his work for God was finished on earth, giving me a larger vision of work to be done, which made me consecrate my life anew to God. I entered missionary work as Superintendent of the Mission Band, which has continued twenty years, also as an officer in our local Woman's Missionary Society. As an officer in the East Pennsylvania Conference Branch, and owing to my connection with *Missionary Tidings*, I find God has widened my sphere of service, and I desire through His grace to be a faithful servant."

Mrs. A. H. Irvine, of Central Pa. Branch, served two years; she, too, doing her best for the work:—yet, in these first years of the organization, the expansion of the work among the young people was so gradual as to almost dishearten these faithful workers, and yet they faithfully, hopefully worked on, looking forward to the time of success.

In 1898, Mrs. Josie McLain, of Forreston, Ill., was elected superintendent, and has served from that time to the present,—1910. In these twelve years Mrs. McLain has rejoiced in the rapid growth of her department. From the ranks of the Young People's Societies in these

later years, have come missionaries, ministers, ministers' wives and skilled workers who have been advanced to responsible positions in the Woman's Board. Mrs. McLain is granddaughter of the sainted Bishop Long, and daughter of the Rev. A. Stahley. Of Mrs. McLain's devotion to her work for the younger people, we need not speak; her record speaks for her.



Mrs. Blanche Stanford Becker

Mrs. Blanche Stanford Becker's interest in the work of the women of our Church began with the first meeting held by the women of the Evangelical Association, in the Perry Street Church, Cleveland, Ohio. She was then a little school girl. At the next annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association, held at Cleveland, in the Woodland Hills Church, she gave the address of welcome. From that time until the present she has been constantly interested in our work. Mrs. Becker was first assistant editor, then editor and later publisher of the *Missionary Tidings*. In many ways she has rendered splendid service.

Mrs. Sarah Ernest Snyder, of Pittsburg, Pa., has, since 1906, come into prominence as one of our most gifted women. When a young girl she was converted and became a member of the United Evangelical Church, under the pastorate of the Rev. M. I. Jamison, of the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Mrs. Snyder is a graduate of the Bloomsburg, Pa., State Normal School, and was also a student and later a teacher in Albright College, Myerstown, Pa. In 1907 Central Pa. Conference Branch Convention was held in Altoona, Pa. Mrs. Snyder was invited to attend and to take a prominent place on the program. A Bible Reading, given by Mrs. Snyder, and an address on "China and Its Needs," so delighted the members of the convention, that arrangements were made at once with her to conduct Mission Study Classes throughout Central Pennsylvania Branch. Since that time she has attended the annual meetings of the Woman's Board and conducted a Mission Study Class at the Missionary Conference held at Perkasio Park, Pa., in 1909. She has delivered addresses in at least four of the ten conference Branches of our church. "She is a wonderful embodiment of missionary activity. * * * Her enthusiasm is contagious, and she seems to know what keys in the human soul to touch to draw it nearer to God in sweet and perfect harmony."

How many of the dear sisters who have taken the lead in many ways in the work of our Woman's Missionary Society, have been omitted in this chapter for various reasons! Some because our records are not as complete as they should be, some perhaps have been overlooked, others have worked so quietly and modestly that even their names may not be given:—then this is only a chapter and limited. A wonderful surprise is awaiting us, when we shall see clearly, and each one shall receive her reward.



Mrs. C. Newton Dubs, wife of the China Mission Superintendent.



*Rev. C. Newton Dubs, Superintendent of the China Mission of
the United Evangelical Church.*

Our China Mission

In the minds of the devoted sisters who organized the Woman's Missionary Society in our beloved Church, the work in the Foreign field was foremost, and, after years of prayerful, patient waiting, their fond hopes were realized, when in the year 1898 the General Conference instructed the Board of Missions to make the preliminary arrangements to establish a mission in some foreign field.

A Committee, consisting of Rev. C. N. Dubs, Rev. H. B. Hartzler and Rev. W. F. Heil were appointed; on June 9th, 1899, this committee reported in favor of Hunan, China, this being the last province in the great Empire to open its doors to the foreign missionary.

On January 10th, 1900, Rev. C. N. Dubs, of Harrisburg, Pa., was appointed Superintendent of this work; in February Mrs. Dubs was appointed missionary, and together with their son Homer they sailed Nov. 20, 1900, from San Francisco, for their new field of labor—with the prayers of the Church. After four weeks of ocean voyage, which had its unpleasant as well as pleasant features, they reached Shanghai, China, Dec. 19, 1900; at once beginning with the language study they began to realize the enormous task before them,—to master this most difficult language,—and so remained at Shanghai for several months.

In February, desiring to get settled as soon as possible, they proceeded as far as Hankow, some 600 miles inland; here they found it impracticable to proceed further and so improved the time in the language study. It was not until three months later that Dr. Dubs made his first visit to Hunan.

In this same year Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Fuessle, at a meeting of the Executive Committee at Perkasié, Park, Pa., were also appointed as missionaries and in September they sailed, reaching Hankow, Oct. 13th, 1901.



Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Fuessle and Kenneth.

In 1902, the first Chapel was opened, property purchased, and a dispensary started by Dr. McWillie.

Rev. C. A. Fuessle, on account of serious illness, was compelled to return to the States with his family, in 1902: this was a severe blow to the work. The Lord called him up higher on December 11, 1903.

During this year Rev. C. C. Talbott, Rev. M. E. Ritzman and Miss Marie T. Hasenpflug were appointed at the Board Meeting in Lancaster, Penna.

The work in China was being organized, and in 1904 the first day school was opened and Street Chapel services were held. A Woman's Bible Class was organized by Mrs. Dubs; new stations were opened at Siangtan and Liling with Street Chapel services. This was followed by Miss Hasenpflug opening the Girls' School in Changsha.

The baptizing of four converts, on the 11th of October, 1903, by Dr. Dubs, in Changsha, was the first result of our work.

In July, this same year, the first property was purchased at Siangtan and the first communion with the baptism of converts was observed.

In August Rev. H. E. Voss and Rev. and Mrs. A. I. Ferch were appointed as missionaries; appropriate farewell services were held and on Oct. 13th the party sailed from San Francisco, reaching Changsha Nov. 23rd, 1904.

Early in February, 1905, Miss Carrie Wengert, of Lebanon, Pa., was appointed to join the company already in China, reaching Changsha in July, 1905. This year several of our missionaries were stricken with typhoid fever at Kuling. The united prayers of the Church and the many friends were heard, and all were restored to health.

The Kreckler Memorial Home was built in the Summer of 1905, in loving memory of our departed President, Mrs. Elizabeth Kreckler,—whose devotion and loyalty to the cause of missions has been an inspiration to very many. This loving tribute was dedicated as a Rest Home for the use of our missionaries.

In October, Rev. C. C. Talbott and Miss Carrie Wengert were married at Hankow.

In December, 1905, Rev. and Mrs. A. I. Ferch were

compelled to return to the home land on account of Mrs. Ferch's ill-health.

Miss Lilla Snyder of Reading, Pa., received her appointment as missionary early in February, 1906, and after very impressive farewell services in her own Church at Reading, she sailed in September for China:—very soon after reaching Changsha Miss Snyder was stricken with typhoid fever, and after a prolonged illness of several months, she, too, was restored to health:—as in the former instances, the Church was united in prayer for her recovery.

Through these first years of our work in China we were led to see the hand of the Lord many times, in the selecting of new stations and the opening of street chapels and school buildings; the acquiring of the difficult language and the work among the women, especially, were made possible through prayer.

In 1907, Dr. and Mrs. Dubs and their son Homer returned to the United States for their first furlough, leaving Shanghai March 29. En route, while in Berlin, Mrs. Dubs took typhoid fever and was detained six weeks;—this was a great trial, but through it all we were led to see the goodness of the Lord: and fully restored they reached New York August 6th.

After spending several days with friends in Germantown, Phila., they proceeded to Harrisburg, Pa., where a "welcome home" reception was given them in Harris St. Church, on August 12th.

At the Board of Missions Meeting held at Franklin, Pa., in October, 1907, after an eloquent appeal in the interest of the work by Dr. Dubs, the Board agreed to appropriate \$35,000 for new buildings, including Missionary Home, School Building, Chapels, Churches, Bible Woman's Home, etc.,—and to try to secure at least ten new workers to increase the force already there.



Those of our Missionaries who spent Thanksgiving of 1909 at Siangtan, China,
 Front Row, from left to right—Rev. Irving Dunlap, Miss Irene Poling and Lee Shambaugh, Mrs. T. L. C. Suhr, Dr. David C. Munford, Rev. C. C. Talbott, Back Row—Mrs. David C. Munford, Rev. W. I. Shambaugh, Mrs. W. I. Shambaugh, Mrs. C. C. Talbott, Rev. T. L. C. Suhr.

In November the Executive Committee met in Harrisburg, and the following were appointed:—Rev. and Mrs. W. I. Shambaugh of Milton, Pa., Rev. and Mrs. T. L. C. Suhr of Barrington, Illinois, Miss Irene Poling of Johnstown, Pa. and Rev. Irving Dunlap of Chicago.

Mr. Wm. E. Winter of Williamsport, Pa., was later appointed as Superintendent of Construction of the Mission buildings.

Dr. and Mrs. Dubs during their stay in the home land did much to stimulate interest in the work;—among other things they presented a valuable collection of banners and curios to the Woman's Board; a room was provided for their exhibition in the Publishing House. This room was most appropriately dedicated on November 12, 1907. The officers of the Woman's Board, Dr. C. N. Dubs, the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Missions, Bishop R. Dubs, the editors of the *Evangelical* and *Keystone League Journal*, and others, were present. This room is used as an Executive Committee room and is open to all guests.

In February, 1908, Dr. and Mrs. Dubs, with Miss Irene Poling, sailed for China from San Francisco, to return to their chosen field of labor. Their son Homer remained in the home land, to attend Oberlin Preparatory School, Oberlin, Ohio, and complete his studies.

The following August the other appointed missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. Shambaugh, with baby Lee, Rev. and Mrs. Suhr and Mr. Winter sailed for China.

During this same summer Rev. H. E. Voss and Miss Lilla Snyder were happily married at Hankow and took up their residence at Liling.

Early in 1909, Rev. M. E. Ritzman returned on furlough to further prepare himself for better service.

Miss Marie T. Hasenpflug was also compelled to return to the home land for rest.

On May the 20th, Dr. Munford and Miss Adele Curry

of Kansas were appointed. On Aug. 16, 1909, the Doctor and Miss Curry were married. Mrs. Munford is a trained nurse. Miss Iva Guiley of Chicago, who was at the head of the Training School work of the Illinois Conference, was also appointed.



*Rev. C. C. Talbott, Rev. W. I. Shambaugh (with little Lee), Rev. H. E. Voss, Rev. M. E. Ritzman.
Mrs. H. E. Voss, Mrs. W. I. Shambaugh, Mrs. C. C. Talbott.*

Several of our Missionaries in China. In 1910 Rev. Mr. Ritzman was on furlough at Drew Theological Seminary, New Jersey. Little Lee Shambaugh had gone home to Jesus.

Rev. Irving Dunlap and Miss Guiley were married in June, and with Dr. and Mrs. Munford sailed on August 31st, 1909, for China.

At the Woman's Board, held in Allentown, Pa., Oct. 7-10, 1909, Miss Lenore Harpster, of Columbus, Ohio, a talented, consecrated young lady, was recommended to



*Rev. A. I. Ferch, Rev. M. E. Ritman, Rev. H. E. Voss, Homer Dubs,
Rev. C. C. Talbott, Dr. C. N. Dubs.*

Mrs. A. I. Ferch, Miss Marie Hasenpflug, Mrs. C. N. Dubs.

This is the personnel of our China Mission force as it was in 1904.

the Board as missionary to China; her appointment followed at the session of the Board of Missions held in Williamsport, Pa.

At this meeting of the Board the application for appointment as missionary, of Miss Rebecca Wolf, of Morristown, Minnesota, was favorably considered.

It being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the Woman's Missionary Society, appropriate Silver Anniversary Services were held,—at which time an extra offering was laid on the altar for China, amounting to \$3,095.00, which was most appropriately given to erect another Home in Kuling.

China has large possibilities, and we as a Woman's Society rejoice in the little share we have been privileged to have in its evangelization.



Miss Lenore Harpster

Complete list of the United Evangelical Missionaries in Hunan Province, China, and on Furlough, at the time of this book's issue.

Rev. and Mrs. C. N. Dubs, D. D.

Rev. and Mrs. T. L. C. Suhr.

Mr. William E. Winter.

Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Talbott.

Rev. and Mrs. W. I. Shambaugh.

Rev. and Mrs. H. E. Voss.

Rev. and Mrs. Irving Dunlap.

Dr. and Mrs. David Munford.

On Furlough

Rev. M. E. Ritzman.

Miss Marie Hasenpflug.

The Young People's Missionary Society

Perhaps no page in the history of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society is fraught with more interest than the one which glows and brightens with the fact that the young men and women become interested in the promulgation of the Gospel.



*Mrs. Josie McLain, General Superintendent
of Young People's Missionary Society.*

The Young People's Missionary Societies of the United Evangelical Church were first organized as Junior Societies, and reported to the General Superintendent of Mission Bands. The first one was the "Temple Builders," of Naperville, Illinois, organized in 1889. Through 1890-'91 the "Temple Builders" continued active, reinforced by an organization at Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois; and Mrs. T. L. Haines, the general superintendent, offered the following resolution, which was adopted at the Board Meeting of 1891: "*Resolved*, That we request the Board of Missions to grant the Junior Societies

the privilege of creating a fund for a Boys' and Girls' Day School in some heathen country."

At the annual meeting of the Missionary Society, held at Lebanon, Pa., Sept. 21, 1893, organizations were reported from Harrisburg and Lebanon, of the East Pennsylvania Branch, and the following recommendation adopted: "*Resolved*, That in order that the Junior work may receive better and more thorough attention, we recommend that a general superintendent be appointed, making that department a special means to encourage organization and study of missions among the young men and women of our church, as also to establish their special work, the Mission Day School."

Miss Myra Reinoehl was appointed the first General Superintendent of the Junior Societies. A constitution was prepared and adopted, the object to be "the cultivation of a true missionary spirit among its members, and the collection of extra funds for missionary purposes."

At the Illinois Branch Convention, held at Geneseo, Illinois, August 28, 1894, Mrs. Lizzie Hintz was appointed the first Branch Superintendent, and at the general Woman's Board, in Williamsport, Pa., Sept. 2, 1894, Miss Reinoehl, general Superintendent, gave her first report. Immanuel, Reading, of East Pennsylvania, and Freeport and Forreston of Illinois Branch were added to the list, giving a total of seven societies with 164 members, having raised \$102.37, of which \$84.19 was appropriated to the Foreign Fund.

Mrs. E. E. Adams was elected the General Superintendent, and the Committee on Ways and Means recommended that Branch Superintendents be appointed, and that one page of the *Tidings* be given to the Juniors for their department.

In 1895, special report blanks were granted for this department, and a request from the Illinois Branch for the privilege of supporting a boy in Mardin, Turkey, by

special offerings was granted and faithfully continued by this Branch until 1903, when the boy (Nehemiah Creakerus) graduated.

In 1896 the East Pennsylvania Branch reported five societies, with Miss Myra Reinoehl as their superintendent; Illinois, seven, and Central Branch, two. Mrs. H. B. Hartzler was appointed General Superintendent, but owing to ill health, was obliged to resign, and Mrs. A. H. Irvine was appointed to this office, which she served faithfully until 1898.

At the annual meeting of the Woman's Board, held at Reading, Pa., Sept. 20, 1897, the name of the Junior Society was changed to the Young People's Missionary Society. Mrs. Haeefele was appointed to edit the Young People's Department in the *Tidings*, and the following covenant was recommended for adoption: "Grateful that we have heard the glad news of salvation, mindful that vast millions of boys and girls can never hear the tidings of great joy, unless a Christian missionary be sent to them, remembering that Jesus made loving obedience the supreme test of discipleship, and that his last and most solemn command was, 'Go teach all nations,' I gladly enter into this covenant of obedience and that I will not cease to make offerings of prayer, time and money to the end that the sons and daughters of sorrow in heathen lands may know the love of Jesus."

In 1898 Mrs. C. F. Kiest donated the sum of \$25 to the Illinois Juniors for the support of another boy.

In 1898 there were eleven societies, 289 members, and a total of \$217.56 raised, and the faithful superintendents who worked so hard to bring about such a record were: Mrs. Josie McLain, Illinois Branch; Mrs. Elizabeth Krecker, East Pennsylvania; Mrs. S. P. Remer, Central Branch; Mrs. Josie McLain being elected General Superintendent. In 1899 Des Moines Branch reported one society at Des Moines, with Mrs. Thompson as their first

superintendent, and this year chronicled 16 societies, with a membership of 393, and a total amount raised, \$399.54.

The Twentieth Century Offering for our special Branch work in China was recommended to the Young People's Missionary Societies in 1901.

Pittsburg Branch, Pennsylvania, with Mrs. Steelsmith as their first superintendent, reported one society at Johnstown; Platte River came into the ranks and elected Mrs. Bailey as their Branch Superintendent.

While the growth of this department has not been as desired, yet the steady gain, and faithfulness of the Branch superintendents of our loyal young people, are an inspiration to still greater work.

In 1904 the general superintendent was able to report three new Branches with their superintendents: Ohio, one society, Miss D. Meisse; Kansas Branch, Mrs. E. Stout; Northwestern Branch, Mrs. G. Hulsebus. The grand total for 1904, of 48 societies, 1,239 members, and \$1,465.01, shows the steady and encouraging growth of this department.

In compliance with the request of the General Superintendent, the Woman's Board recommended that every sister of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the church, make this department a subject of daily prayer, that more of our young people may become interested in the work, and that those who have been working so faithfully, may consecrate themselves unreservedly to the Master's use.

They also recommended that the General Superintendent, with the Executive Committee, prepare a suitable banner for the Branch having the largest net gain in number of societies.

We believe that it was in answer to the united prayers of our workers that the report of 1905 proved so encouraging. Central Branch, Pennsylvania, made the most rapid

progress, in that they have over one-half of the total number of societies (61), they having 31, and a net gain of six societies, thus giving them the first right to the banner in 1909. We regret, however, that the "Temple Builders" of Naperville, the first Young People's Society, disbanded.

We also had the privilege of bidding Miss Carrie Wengert (now Mrs. Talbott), of Lebanon, Pa., God-speed on her mission of love, to carry the Gospel to our Chinese young people. She sailed from San Francisco, June 6, 1905, reaching Shanghai one month later. Mrs. Talbott was the first member of our Young People's Society to become a foreign worker.

Thus the work of our Young People's Missionary Societies has been given an impetus in the homeland, and consecrated young people are offering themselves as willing workers for the heathen lands.

For 1910, membership contests were recommended, and the motto, "Expect great things from God, and attempt great things for God," which has been used by the general superintendent and the young people, in a general way, since 1898, was adopted by the Woman's Board as a motto for this department of work.

A growing interest was manifested by calls coming from the superintendents for Study Classes, for a separate publication, and for some special, definite work; and at the Woman's Board Meeting of 1908, these calls were answered, when the Board provided:—

First, That Mission Study Classes be organized, and societies taking these studies be encouraged to correspond with those who attended the Summer Schools, and thus secure the latest methods adopted by the "Forward Movement."

Second, That four pages be added to the *Missionary Tidings*, as a Young People's Department, to be edited by Miss Carrie V. Neitz.

Third, That the young people assume the support of one or more lady missionaries.

One year later, in 1909, Miss Irene Poling was selected as the young People's first missionary.

The suggestion of the General Superintendent, in 1907, to increase the interest in missions among our young people by some plan of oratorical contest work for our Young People's Missionary Societies, whereby they will not only become better informed in the work, but be the means of attracting others, was followed in 1908 by the East Pennsylvania Branch appointing Mrs. Myra Miller-Stauffer as Superintendent of the Contest Department. And the Woman's Board, at Barrington, Illinois, Oct. 8, 1908, believing that such contests would be an incentive to the work of our young people and helpful in spreading missionary intelligence, recommended that the Branch Young People's Missionary Society superintendents select a list of readings and urge their societies to take up the Medal Contest work. In accordance with this recommendation, the Branch Superintendent of Illinois, Miss Iva Guiley (now Mrs. Irving Dunlap), urged the societies to adopt the plan.

The first Oratorical Missionary Contest was held at Forreston, Illinois, May 18, 1909. The medal was won by Mr. Fred Korf. This contest was a success financially and a manifest means of increasing missionary sentiment; and we believe it has opened a door of opportunity for a department of work that will be a blessing to those who avail themselves of the privileges afforded.

Here we close the first chapter of the missionary movement among the young people of our church, hoping that the historic pages, yet to be written, will be replete with greater achievement, in the beautiful task of hastening the glad time when the heathen shall be the Christian's inheritance, and the uttermost islands of the sea the Kingdom of our Lord.



Mrs. T. L. Haines, former General Superintendent of Mission Bands.

The Children's Portion

"There's room for children's service in this busy world of ours;
We need them as we need the birds, and need the summer
flowers;

And their help at task and toiling, the Church of God may claim,
And gather little followers, in Jesus' holy name.

The first reference we find that includes the children of our church in organized missionary work, is given in a recommendation, adopted by a Woman's Missionary Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, June, 1883. By this convention there was presented to General Conference at Allentown, Pennsylvania, in October of the same year, an appeal for recognition by the church, and for authority to push out into broader fields of missionary activity. This included a more direct missionary education of the children.

The next step we note is at the first annual meeting of our Woman's Missionary Society, in Lindsay, Ohio, September, 1885. The society there directed the Executive Committee to prepare a plan for the constitution and organization of Children's Mission Bands, so an appeal was formulated.

FIRST CONSTITUTION.

Name.

Article 1.—This society shall be called the.....
Mission Band of church of the Evangelical Association.

Object.

Art. 2.—The object of this Society shall be the cultivation of a missionary spirit among the children, and the raising of money for missionary purposes.

Membership.

Art. 3.—Any child may become a member of this Society by paying not less than two cents a month.

Officers.

Art. 4.—The officers of this Society shall be: First, An adult person as Manager, appointed by the local Woman's Missionary Society, or the pastor, who shall have general direction of the affairs of the Society; Second, A president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, appointed by the Manager from among the children, whose duties shall be those usual to such offices.

Meetings.

Art. 5.—The Society shall hold regular monthly meetings. The annual meeting for the election of officers shall be held in the month of September.

Funds.

Art. 6.—This Society shall be auxiliary to the local Woman's Missionary Auxiliary, and shall remit its funds to the treasurer of the same in the months of February and August. If there is no local Auxiliary, the funds shall be sent to the General Treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Society.

Because of the organization of eight Bands the first year, with a membership of 207, we are led to say, this work was of God from its very inception.

A paper on "Children's Work" was read by Mrs. T. L. Haines, and the first report of Mission Bands was given at the second annual meeting held in Naperville, Illinois, October, 1886. It was hailed with surprise and thanksgiving. The appointment of Woman's Missionary Society District Managers, at about this time, facilitated the work of organization; so we find the report in 1887 re-

cords eighteen Bands, with a membership of 479, and \$292 given for missionary purposes.

As leaders were eager for aid in their monthly meetings, Mrs. Haines secured for them a column in the *Children's Friend*, by the kindness of Rev. P. W. Raidabaugh, editor. In this little paper she furnished them a program with suggestive matter until we had a paper of our own. Stimulated and encouraged, the work grew and new Bands were added.

The year 1888 marks the time from which dates special supervision of our Mission Bands. By action of the Executive Committee, Mrs. T. L. Haines, of Chicago, Ill., was elected to the office of General Superintendent of Children's Work, also to prepare monthly programs for the Mission Bands, in our own periodical, *The Missionary Messenger*. This action was approved by the annual meeting held in Reading, Pa., 1889. The new Constitution provided for a General Superintendent and also for Branch Superintendents. Important changes were then made in the Mission Band Constitution, providing for representation at annual Branch meetings, for annual reports to the Branch, and to the General Superintendent, while all missionary moneys were directed paid to the treasurer of the Branch.

In 1890 the first Conference Branch Superintendents received their appointment. In 1891 five superintendents reported in detail the progress of Children's Mission Band work, to their respective Branches. Mrs. B. H. Miller championed the work in East Pa. Branch, Mrs. Mina Rishel the Pittsburg Branch, Miss Emma Dittmar in Central Pa., Mrs. Wm. Caton in Illinois, and Mrs. Dora Schlister in Platte River Branch. This was a great year for the little ones. We glean from the general report the existence of fifty-four Bands, with an enrollment of 2,084.

At the Seventh Annual Meeting, held at Naperville,

Illinois, in October of 1891, the Girls' Boarding School Fund was established and given to the Mission Bands as their special object of work. Can we picture the happy faces of the delighted children (2,000 of them) meeting once a month with their dear leaders in the Mission Bands?

Mrs. S. F. Entorf prepared the Mission Band programs with excellent suggestions for leaders, in 1891, and in October, 1892, a department was given the children in *Missionary Tidings*, with Miss Marguerite Kreckler as editor. A quarterly envelope containing leaflets for monthly Band meetings was issued and the field-daisy chosen as the general badge of our Mission Bands.

At the close of this year of tears and regret,—(for many will remember those days of separation from loved associates),—we note this reference, indicative of the beautiful spirit existing among our sisterhood: "The Superintendents of the Pittsburg and some other Branches have done what they could in His name, but can bring us only half the Bands reported last year. We deeply regret the loss of some of our first Bands organized, as we had learned to love and cherish them. But we would pray the Father that He may continue to guide them into all truth." God so honored this Christlike spirit, that the work continued to grow beyond all expectation.

At this time Article I, of the Constitution, was changed to read: "This society shall be called the. Mission Band of. United Evangelical Church."

In 1893 great enthusiasm was shown in the gathering of money for their special object, the Girls' Boarding School Fund. To aid the children, a pretty star card, containing 100 stars was adopted, and more than 800 of them were distributed. Another beautiful card, called the World Penny Helper, was designed by Miss Emma Dittmar, of Williamsport, Pa. This, with the addition of an attractive little mite box, called Our Bank of Blessings,

designed by the General Superintendent, Mrs. Haines, pleased and assisted the children greatly.

A paragraph from the General Superintendent's report reads: "It may be a stimulus to future effort to know that our Bands, whose beginning was so small, now number fifty-seven, and have grown in membership to the number of 2,357, a net gain of 835 members this year. Let these tributes, accompanied by the trusting faith of the children, be like the laughing springs, which send their sparkling waters down through the thirsty fields in the spring-time, and cause many a bud and blossom to spring up to delight and bless the world, and glorify their Creator."

In 1893 the children were given the *Mission Band Evangelical* as their paper, with Miss Marguerite Krecker as its efficient and loved editor. Later this paper also became a Sunday-school periodical, the *Missionary Number* of the *Sunday-school Evangelical*, and through this means we gained an entrance into thousands of homes, with telling incidents and facts from foreign fields, and the personal touch of missionary enthusiasm given by the devoted editor, Mrs. Vincent, *nee*, Krecker. Another means of help was a column for the Mission Bands, edited by Mrs. C. G. Unangst, in the *Bee Hive*, an Illinois Conference paper.

That the Parent Board of Missions has also been a factor in strengthening the Mission Band work, may be judged from this reference in the superintendent's report of 1893, "One especial help that has come to us this year is the generous way in which the Parent Board, at their last session, encouraged the formation of Mission Bands among the children of our churches."

For several years this department also included Young People's Missionary Societies, called Juniors at that time. They certainly were our pride, and we loved them as an older sister. But we could not wish them to lose their identity in the larger number of Mission Bands. So in

1893, after a plea for the organization of our young men and women, we recommended the appointment of a superintendent, whose sole duty should be the care of the young people, and the gathering of money for the Day School Fund.

At this time recommendations were adopted, requiring the Executive Committees of the Branches to appoint Mission Band Secretaries for each presiding elder district, to coöperate with the Branch Superintendent in organizing and fostering the Mission Band interests of their respective districts. They, with the Branch Superintendent, should constitute a committee on Children's Work, to devise such plans and methods whereby they might stimulate the Mission Band interests of the Branch.

In 1894 an Aim Card was designed for the convenience of leaders. The following Pledge Card and Creed was recommended and prepared for the use of the Bands:

MISSION BAND PLEDGE.

(In Concert.)

I promise each day to pray for the salvation of the heathen.
I promise to give what money I can to send them the Gospel.
I promise to attend each meeting of our Mission Band if I can

MISSIONARY CREED.

(In Concert.)

We believe in God the Father and in His Son Jesus Christ,
We believe the heathen are lost in sin and need a knowledge of
Christ.

We believe it is our duty to tell them of the plan of salvation.
We therefore engage to learn about their need, to study God's
Word, and to send to them the word of life by the hands of
our missionaries.

Later a Wall Chart was issued containing the above Pledge and Creed, with the addition of an Offertory Prayer and the Mission Band Benediction.

Our now sainted Mrs. Jacob Hartzler took charge of the Bands in the Central Pa. Conference from 1892-1895.

In 1895 Mrs. J. A. Hollenbaugh, of Central Pa., and Miss Carrie Bordlemay, of the East Pa. Branches, accepted the superintendency of their respective Branches. Miss Virgie Thomas took Central Pa. for one year, while Miss Cora Frost followed Mrs. Wm. Caton in Illinois the preceding year. Remarkable success attended the efforts of all these devoted superintendents. It seemed as if the very windows of heaven opened, and showered blessings, year after year, until there was scarcely room to contain all. Leaders, children and superintendents studied, worked and rejoiced together. The Golden Text suggested for that year was Col. 3: 23; and Rev. 22: 21 was, and is still, repeated in concert at the close of each regular meeting, as a benediction.

The history of Mission Band work up to 1896 is not only of improvement in many lines of work, and a continual increase in number of Bands and membership,—but, far better, many of these little ones are themselves being drawn very near to the heart of a loving Christ.

It was in 1896 that the Wee Bands, later known as the Cradle Roll, first crept into our hearts and circle, and until 1902 the department nourished and cared for them. At this time it meant the loss of twenty-six Bands from our number, with a membership of 291^{*} taken from our list. But realizing that it would be for their best interests, we unhesitatingly recommended a superintendent for the new department.

The Mission Band programs, prepared by Mrs. Haines, and appearing, up to this time, in *Missionary Tidings*, were now ordered published in the *Missionary Evangelical*. A department in this paper was set apart for our Bands, and after several years, the programs appearing in this column were then prepared by Mrs. M. K. Vincent, who, for nine years more, continued as its very capable editor. For three years Miss Cora E. Frost had inspired the Illinois Bands to advance to a proud record, but as her

strength was insufficient to continue, Mrs. B. R. Schultze took the work for one year.

The first separate Mission Band blanks were recommended in 1897 and sent out in 1898; also blanks for reports of Branch Superintendents were printed for use the following year. They have been enlarged twice, each time adding new features, until they are a model of beauty, and exceedingly well adapted to their uses.

Of 1897 and 1898 we glean this: "Our leaders have never done so nobly. Their work is full of encouragement; lost but six bands, and four of these have merged into Junior Societies. Where we find a live, enthusiastic pastor, one who thoroughly believes in missions, there we, in time, find a wide-awake Mission Band.

"One of the most difficult tasks that comes to our superintendents is that of re-organizing, where a Band for lack of interest, or because of neglect, has been allowed to die."

At the annual meeting held in South Fork, Pa., 1898, the General Superintendent was presented with a handsome silk quilt, the gift of the Branch Superintendents. Surprised, and completely overcome at this beautiful expression of love and coöperation from her co-workers, the superintendent said, in acceptance: "If joy as a reward in heaven, for simply having done what we could, can be greater than this, it is well that our spirits will then be free, as we certainly would not be able to bear it."

Of all that might be given as history of 1899, we mention but this: "The work is gaining in sympathy and coöperation of pastors and people. We can not measure the present influences brought to bear upon the children, thus being trained for future usefulness. Certain it is that the standards of missions will be lifted immeasurably higher because of this early training. Mrs. L. H. Hintz (of blessed memory) presented Illinois Branch with

a beautiful banner, to encourage better average attendance at Band meetings."

This year records a number of changes in superintendents. Mrs. G. W. Imboden had charge of the Pittsburgh Branch, until the Father called her home, and Mrs. Minnie Dunmire again took care of the three brave little Bands for some time kept fanned into brightness by her motherly supervision. Mrs. W. I. Shambaugh followed Mrs. J. A. Hollenbaugh in the Central Pa. Branch, and Miss Mamie Cable in Illinois followed Mrs. L. H. Hintz.

The Iowa Bands came into our ranks this year, with Mrs. E. B. Utt as their most devoted superintendent. This Branch owes its beginning to the Home Mission Band, organized four years before, under our Mission Band Constitution, in the home of Rev. and Mrs. B. H. Niebel, of Des Moines. They taught, studied, prayed and gave for missions in their little family circle, which was the beginning of a church Mission Band of thirty-two members. Out of it developed a Young People's Missionary Society, and, through its influence, a Woman's Missionary Society. These local Societies became the nucleus of the Des Moines Branch organization. (Who can say that the United Evangelical Church of 1908 did not owe its General Missionary Secretary, Rev. B. H. Niebel, to the blessing upon that little Home Band?)

Some telling recommendations were adopted in 1899 and 1900. One suggested that all Bands each year plan a great Annual Rally for the month of September, secure new members and reclaim indifferent ones; Banks of Blessing, or World Penny Helpers were to be given out and returned at the November Thank-Offering service.

An apportionment of twenty-five cents per member for foreign work was set for each Conference Branch, which aim, if reached, places the Branch on the Woman's Board Roll of Honor. There is also given each Branch a Roll of Honor, on which are placed each year, the

names of Bands in those Branches contributing twenty-five cents per member to foreign work.

The little *Illustrated Leaflet*, with its pictures, Question and Answer Drill, story and verse, was safely launched in this year, becoming a real help and delight to leaders and children in their study of the monthly topics. It was edited first by Mrs. Haines, then by Mrs. W. H. Fouke, and from October, 1905, to the close of the year, by Mrs. Jennie Noot, of Pennsylvania. It was continued for five years, yielding place, in 1905, to the new children's paper, the *Missionary Gem*. This paper, with Mrs. W. H. Fouke as its loved editor, was at once received with delight, and has become one of the most valuable helps in our Mission Band work.

It was during this year that our first missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. C. N. Dubs entered China. Many were the prayers that ascended from children's lips for the safe keeping of Homer in far-away China.

In 1901 one Branch Superintendent, Mrs. A. W. Schenberger, of the Platte River Conference, was called to her reward. This, her message to us, "Vanquished, but not forsaken." Mrs. Mary A. Shupp took up the task laid down by our sister, and Mrs. Sadie Graybill entered the work in Illinois.

That the children might have a larger part in blessing humanity, they were given the privilege of contributing also to the Hospital Fund. This fund has been accepted by the Woman's Board for some time, but until this year the children had not been given a share in it.

We find mention made of the "Scripture Blackboard Illustration," given first in 1900, by Mrs. Haines, in response to the leaders' repeated requests. In the report of 1901 it is referred to as a necessity to our programs, and an invaluable help to leaders. From September, 1905, to 1907, Miss Nina Marzolf, of Chicago, very creditably prepared this essential help for the Bands.

In September of this year, Kenneth, with his parents, Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Fuessle, sailed for China; so our Mission Band had another little friend across the sea, for whom to petition the Father's loving care.

We note this from the report of 1902: "Miss Carrie Bordlemay, for eight years East Pennsylvania's devoted Superintendent of Mission Bands, has been succeeded by Miss Anna Sweigert, a successful Mission Band leader. No more enviable wish could be bestowed upon any one, than to wish for this new Superintendent that there may fall upon her shoulders the same beautiful mantle of love and honor, which during all these years of faithful service, has been accorded Miss Bordlemay."

"Leaders of our Bands have again gathered from the year's toil, and even the children come laden with armfuls of bud and blossoms, hoping to please with their little gifts, and trusting we will find in the modest figures, sweet fragrance of love and sacrifice." This practically tells the story of 1902, with the Aim given for the following year: *Better methods of work, better organization, deeper spiritual life.* Our Motto: *Study God's thought for the salvation of the world.*

Miss Anna Sweigert, a rare jewel of the East Pa. Branch, brings us her first report in 1903; also Mrs. Karl Kaupp from the Northwestern Branch; Mrs. J. W. Drehmer enters upon pioneer work in the Kansas Branch, and all Bands are striving to reach a place on the Branch Rolls of Honor. Until 1903, East Pa. and Central Pa. alone had gained that enviable place on the Woman's Board Roll of Honor; but later all other Branches succeeded.

A recommendation was passed urging more general observance of the Annual Public Meetings, such as, Thank-Offering in November, New Year or Birthday Reception, Annual Rally or Harvest Festival in September, and Hospital Day in March. Daily Mission Band



Breaking Ground for the Girls' School, in Changsha, China, November 19, 1908. Our missionaries present—Dr. C. N. Dubs, Miss Hasenpflug, Miss Poling, Mrs. Dubs, Mrs. Suhr, Rev. T. L. C. Suhr and Mr. William Winter (at extreme right of picture). Mr. Winter superintends the construction of our China Mission Buildings.

Conferences at Branch Conventions were reported for the first time in 1903.

Classification and grading of Bands was provided for and added to the Mission Band Constitution as By-laws. A monthly meeting of leaders and teachers was suggested. A very pretty mite box was designed by Miss Emma Ditmar.

In 1904 the aim for foreign work was placed at \$2,000, and that we might not lose sight of the necessity of spiritual gain, the watchword given was, "Better service for Christ." A comprehensive view of our Mission Band work up to this time was given in a chart prepared for the Woman's Board Meeting, showing its progress from the beginning. This chart tells a story of unselfish devotion to the cause. It, with other years added, will appear at the close of this chapter. If permitted, we would so like to note much else deserving of special mention on this chart in every Branch.



*Miss Marie Hasenpflug,
Sister of Mrs. C. N. Dubs*

Mrs. J. W. Shank finished a year of service in Kansas Branch, and Mrs. R. F. Brothers entered upon the work in Illinois, which she carried very successfully for four years. Mrs. A. D. Hollenbaugh became Superintendent in Kansas Branch, holding that office for four fruitful years. Miss Lena Gueck took charge of the Bands in Platte River from 1904 to 1906.

Our foreign "Girls' Boarding School has become a reality, and there is great rejoicing among the children of our Bands." It was opened May 31, 1904, in Changsha, China, with Miss Marie Hasenpflug in charge. Many are the prayers that ascend for this school and the dear Chinese girls, so fortunate to be taught and loved

by our Miss Hasenpflug and her assistants,—our own dear Mission Band daughters.

Items from 1905:—Mrs. I. R. Rehm, of Illinois, was in charge of the Mission Bands during 1905-1906, while the General Superintendent took a rest, spending the year with her family in Europe.

The Northwestern and Central Pa. Branches reached the aim of five new Bands and all former ones retained. Sixty-eight Bands won a place on their Branch Rolls of Honor. We crossed the 6,000 mark in membership.

A beautiful banner was given Central Pa. Branch at this time, by the enthusiastic superintendent, Mrs. J. A. Hollenbaugh, to encourage larger gifts for the treasury and for foreign work.

Mrs. B. F. Allen and Mrs. Patterson, of Cleveland, looked after the children's interest in Ohio in 1905 and 1906. Then Mrs. W. H. Sherrick was appointed superintendent, and she loyally cared for the Bands of the Branch for three years. She was followed by Mrs. P. E. Smoke, in 1909. To her Ohio is looking for success.

The work of these dear leaders is not like the musician's touch, that brings sweet, divine harmony from his instrument,—for when his fingers are withdrawn, the vibration ceases, the sound dies away. But the leader who touches the soul of a little child, strikes the key of a symphony that shall sound through all eternity.

On the records of our early Mission Bands we find the names of four little girls, familiarly called Mary Mundis, Carrie Wengert, Lilla Snyder, and Irene Poling. Then, in 1901 and 1902, we find the same names as leaders of Mission Bands, faithfully directing the little ones. From their own story we learn that the desire to enter foreign fields first came to their hearts as they studied of a perishing world, in the Mission Band. How little the leaders of these early Bands knew that their work would be so rewarded. For when the call came from the church

for more missionaries to China, these four earnest young women answered, "Here am I."

"In the year 1907 the Des Moines Branch claimed our successful superintendent, Mrs. E. B. Utt, as President of the Branch. So devoted a friend to our children's work cannot but be greatly missed. We bespeak for the Branch a most capable president, and welcome Mrs. Rose Stauffacher as Mission Band Superintendent of the Branch."

Oregon comes to us with three bright new Bands, and an average of twenty-four cents per member to foreign work. Mrs. Floyd Fisher is the champion of the little circle. Five Branches gain a place on the Board Roll of Honor. Our new superintendent's blanks provide for reports of public and special meetings;—2,054 regular meetings were reported, with an average attendance of seventeen. The membership of our Bands now exceeds the aim of 7,000. Continued interest in our Girls' Boarding School is shown by large contributions for that work. It is a real delight to bring to the little ones messages from over the sea, telling of the blessing this school is, even now, to heathen children.

During this year a set of four leaflets was prepared by the General Superintendent: "Monthly, Public, Week-day and Special Mission Band Meetings," also a booklet on "Mission Band Entertainments." These had long been needed, and are now in general use.

One reason for the increased efficiency of our bands is the increase in Mission Band representation at Branch Conventions. In 1907, 65 leaders attended the annual Branch Meetings, and in several Branches the Superintendents arranged for Mission Band Conferences.

From the report of the General Superintendent in 1908:—"For the twentieth time we come to you with a net gain in almost every department, and yet we are but touching the edge of this beautiful work of training and

teaching our children in missions. The total number of Mission Bands is now 288; a net gain of sixteen Bands, with a membership of 7,609, a gain of 462 members. The amount secured by the children in 1908 is equal to the contributions of all the W. M. S. organizations in Central Pa. and Illinois Branches. How precious in the sight of the Father must be the \$3,000 for foreign work, given by these loving little hearts!

The *Missionary Gem* is truly a gem in our Band work. Leaders and children show their practical appreciation of this fine little paper.

Miss Anna Sweigert, who so endeared herself to leaders and children of the East Pa. Branch during six years of beautiful service as superintendent, found it necessary to withdraw from the work in 1908. Many kindly wishes went with her. At the same time, Mrs. C. E. Barr was very heartily received. Mrs. Rose Stauffacher, for two years Superintendent in Des Moines Branch, is again called to the presidency of the Branch, while Mrs. Barbara Jones, a most earnest, consecrated Mission Band leader, is entrusted with the children's interests. Mrs. R. F. Brothers, Illinois' faithful and determined superintendent for four years, was necessitated to relinquish her work, and it was given to Mrs. I. R. Rehm. Mrs. J. A. Hollenbaugh, identified with the Bands in Central Pa. since their beginning, and for four years their loyal superintendent, was also obliged to retire. But another very capable superintendent was found in the person of Miss Emma Messinger. Mrs. S. J. Shupp, also a most faithful superintendent in Platte River Branch, was obliged to withdraw, and Mrs. Addie Essley took the place.

Each year the children's interest in China becomes greater; all the more so now, because they have given one of their number as a sacrifice to the evangelizing of that faraway land. Bonny little Lee Shambaugh died at

Siangtan, Hunan, China, in April of 1910. He was a member of the Mission Band and son of Rev. and Mrs. W. I. Shambaugh, missionaries of our church. That little grave across the sea strongly appeals for their untiring devotion to missions.

The year 1908 closed the service of Mrs. T. L. Haines, General Superintendent of Mission Bands. It was with sincere regret that Mrs. Haines laid down the work with the children. This work, which she had so carefully tended from its beginning, had become a part of her very life. Deeply appreciative resolutions were adopted by the Woman's Board, bidding Mrs. Haines farewell, and assuring a welcome to her daughter, the new superintendent, Mrs. I. R. Rehm, of Deerfield, Illinois.

In 1909 comes the first report given by Mrs. Rehm. She says: "We look into the past, and get experience from it. We look into the future, and get inspiration from it; but above all we want to be alive to the vital needs of the present." She expresses pleasure because of the bountiful harvest of gifts from the Bands, and the advance along many lines. She also regrets the loss of Mrs. J. W. Fager to the Mission Bands of Kansas Branch, again welcoming Mrs. Anna D. Hollenbaugh as superintendent, and greets Miss Stella Gerhardt, as she takes up the work in the Northwestern, because of Mrs. Karl Kaupp's call to the secretaryship of that Branch.

Then in the spirit of the flag-bearer, who knew only "advance," to superintendents and leaders she says: "That is the spirit *we* want. There must be no retreat, no lowering of our aim and ambition, but a glad, strong purpose to advance."

Of those associated with us in this work, some have gone to be with Christ; yet their dear faces are still clear on memory's pages, and the recollection of their helpfulness unforbidden. Others are to-day holding most responsible places in our dear missionary organizations; while still

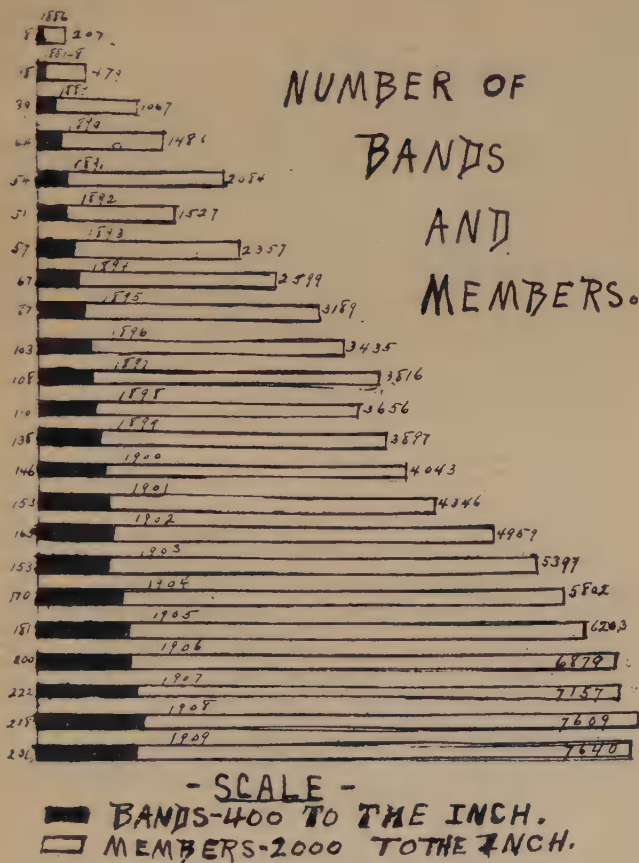
others are leading souls to Christ in China. The history of faithfulness of our leaders could not be written in words of commendation. It will need the pen of an angel to record all the credit due these self-sacrificing, earnest leaders of Mission Bands. And what of the children? How we have learned to love them! Let us look into the home on Mission Band day; see the older sister or brother pleading for little sister or brother to go to Band meeting. See them again as they run errands, "tend" the baby, or pass the candy store with pennies earned held tightly for missions,—when the candy looks so good! Then observe the happy faces as they kiss mother good-bye. Then look again when they kneel in prayer in the meeting, asking God to bless the pennies they brought for poor little children that don't know about Jesus. Listen, as one after the other pleads the Father to bless you, the leader of their Band. Listen, as they repeat to father and mother the story of those in heathen lands without a Saviour. The full record of the children's part in the great work of missions cannot be written in a single chapter. He only can gather a faithful history of children's loving service; and He, too, will reward.

It is now twenty-six years since the first appeal for the missionary education of our children was presented to our Parent Board. Could we see through these years, as our Father sees, the gradual development of Christian character, and the missionary enthusiasm filling the children's minds and hearts; or could we know how, by thus leading them so close to the heart of a loving Saviour, there has often been awakened an earnest, prayerful determination, either to go, or to send the news of redemption, to the unsaved millions:—if, indeed, we could present to you these precious fruits of the years, then with Phillips Brooks, we would be ready to say, "He who helps a child, helps humanity with a distinct-

ness, with an immediateness, which no help given to human creatures in any other stage of life, can possibly give again."

During these years, our Woman's Board has been developing Branch after Branch. The Branches have responded with leaves, buds and blossoms, until sometimes we have been completely hidden by their loveliness. Year after year has passed, and these blossoms of promise have been transformed into precious fruitage. At times the fruit was not so abundant as we hoped for. Sometimes it has not been as round and perfect as we could have wished, but there was fruit, and it came from the Branches.



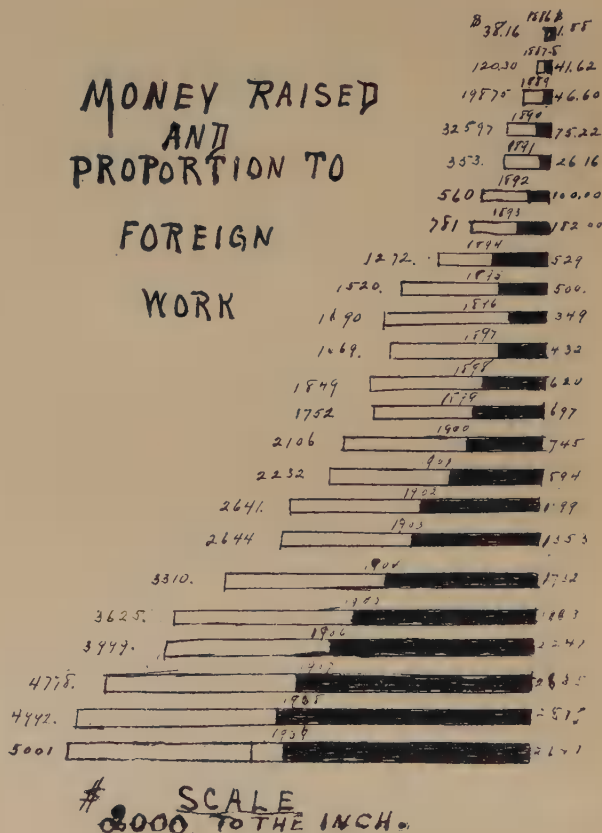


Observe the gradual and steady gain in both charts. This seems to show a healthy condition and increasing strength. The only loss of any note was in 1892, which shows 500 less in membership, and a net loss of three Bands. This was quite recovered, however, in the following year.

In the first ten years the number of Bands increased thirteen times, from 8 to 103, and in the last ten years the membership doubled itself, from 3,897 to 7,640. The present number of Bands is 233. San Francisco has 1; Ohio, 2; Oregon, 4; Northwestern, 6; Kansas, 8; Platte River, 15; Des Moines, 19; Pittsburg, 20; Illinois, 35; Central Pennsylvania, 60; and East Pennsylvania, 63.

The second chart, in a striking way, shows the increase of children's contributions, and the large proportion given to foreign work. The sudden gain of the latter in 1894, was due to the Girls' Boarding School

MONEY RAISED AND PROPORTION TO FOREIGN WORK



Fund, which was given to the Mission Bands as their special object that year. A small loss in money for the foreign work in 1896, was occasioned by the loss of the Junior Societies, which were placed in a department of their own.

In the last ten years the Mission Bands almost tripled their amount raised, (\$1,752—\$5,001), and more than tripled their contributions to foreign work (\$697—\$2,747).

The whole amount given by the children to our foreign work during these twenty-three years is \$22,000. In 1909 they raised \$5,000 for the year, and the whole amount of their contributions from 1886 to 1909 is \$47,453. In 1910 they will have raised more than \$50,000 for missions.

In 1911 the Mission Bands will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of their organization, and we hope that leaders and children will see the realization of all the fond hopes and plans of the past years.

Our Cradle Roll

There is no more beautiful work in our whole organization than that of the Missionary Cradle Roll. Six years in this work for the babies, has led me to this conclusion. When will we as leaders realize our wonderful privilege, in beginning to train these pure little souls in the ways of the Kingdom? It is a great joy to be able to interest the little ones in heathen lands; to turn their tender, sympathetic hearts with love toward other children who are not so happy; to cultivate a generous impulse and teach them how to give.

It is fitting that such an important work should be enrolled with the other great organizations of the Woman's Missionary Society, and that something of its history be written. The history of Missionary Cradle Roll work is not finished with this writing, but just begun. These bands of little children will go on increasing in numbers and influence until God shall call us home. The reward for these years of beautiful service shall come in that Great Day when our faithful Cradle Roll leaders and children shall stand before the throne, with thousands of little ones from foreign lands, and shall hear the voice of the King saying, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

The first recommendation by our Woman's Board concerning this work, was passed in 1896, encouraging the organization of Wee Bands (Cradle Rolls). Mrs. L. H. Hintz, of Illinois, organized the first Wee Band at Highland Park, Ill., and it was she who urged advance steps, and is recognized as the one who, from the beginning, saw the need and benefit of Cradle Roll Work most perfectly. Her deep interest and love for the work, led her to present a beautiful banner, embroidered under the

supervision of Mrs. Dubs in China, as an incentive to rapid organization of Cradle Rolls. Although Mrs. Hintz has been called home to her reward, the memory of her devotion to this cause must ever inspire us to be more earnest in the work which she began.

The name Wee Band was changed in 1897 to Missionary Cradle Roll. The first Missionary Cradle Roll in our church was organized in 1897, in Emanuel Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, following a recommendation by the Woman's Board that a Missionary Cradle Roll be created in connection with the Mission Band. The honor



*Rosemary Krecker Vincent, when
one and a half years old.*



*Frank Becker, at the age of
one year.*

of being the first member of the Cradle Roll is shared between Miss Rosemary Krecker Vincent and Master Frank Stanford Becker. The second Roll to be organized was in Memorial Church, Baltimore, Maryland, and others followed in quick succession.

In the following year, 1898, four Rolls came to us from East Pennsylvania, and in 1899, three Rolls from Central Pennsylvania, two from East Pennsylvania, and two from Illinois. In 1902, Kansas Branch and Des Moines joined the number, with three Rolls. At this time 25 Cradle Rolls and 267 babies were with the Mission Bands, and mothered by the General and Branch Superintendents of Mission Bands. At the Woman's Board

Meeting in the fall of 1902, acting on the suggestion of Mrs. T. L. Haines, General Superintendent of Mission Bands, the Home and Cradle Roll Department was instituted, and the existing Cradle Rolls transferred to the new department. A General Superintendent was appointed; Mrs. Irving R. Rehm, of Deerfield, Illinois, who conducted the department for six years, until it was divided in 1908.



*Mrs. Irving R. Rehm, Vice President of
Woman's Missionary Society and Su-
perintendent of Mission Bands.*

The wisdom of this change was proven by the more rapid gain of the succeeding years. In the first year of the new department, eleven Cradle Rolls were added. During that year also, special Branch Superintendents were elected to take charge of the Cradle Rolls and Home Departments in their various Branches. This proved to be a good move, as more individual attention could be

given to each Roll, and the number, membership and contributions rapidly increased. In the second year, 1904, twenty new Cradle Rolls were added, and three Home Departments, making sixty organizations in all. The money raised this year was also an increase, reaching almost ninety dollars.

Each year since then has witnessed an enlargement of purpose and usefulness, until in the year of this writing, 1908, the organizations number 104, the membership includes 1,110 and money raised during the year \$346.18. During the six years of the existence of the department, they have raised quite a surprising sum for the China Hospital Fund—\$1,118.33. Who can measure the good to be done by this offering of the Cradle Roll, a gift fresh from innocent, childish hands, worthy of the Saviour's blessing?

The majority of the Cradle Rolls average in membership from five to twenty-five, but we have some remarkable societies. One Roll raised \$1.13 per member, and a number raised over \$.60 per member during the past year. The largest Cradle Roll is at Vilas, Pennsylvania, where there are 120 members who raised last year \$47.00 for China. When we realize that these amounts are given by societies of *babies, less than five years of age*, it is truly marvelous.

The Cradle Rolls have been fortunate in having such devoted Branch Superintendents. Mrs. W. P. Ritter, of Central Pennsylvania Branch, was succeeded by Mrs. J. W. Thompson. Mrs. Blanche Becker has had charge of the Rolls in East Pennsylvania for six years. The Superintendents in Illinois have been Mrs. L. H. Hintz, Miss Alice McLane, Mrs. B. R. Schultze, Mrs. H. Messner. In Des Moines Branch, Mrs. G. R. Stover, Mrs. J. G. Walz, Mrs. S. C. Wadding. In Kansas, Mrs. W. W. Underkoffler, Mrs. C. H. Taylor. In Northwestern, Mrs. Karl Kaupp, Miss Stella Gerhardt. In Pittsburg, Mrs.

C. E. Sayer and Mrs. I. R. Grimm. Platte River, Mrs. Shupp, Miss Lena Gueck, Mrs. Essley and Mrs. M. T. Maze.

At the annual meeting of the Woman's Board, at Barrington, Ill., in October, 1908, the General Superintendent of Home and Cradle Roll Department, Mrs. I. R. Rehm was elected General Superintendent of Mission Bands. The department was then divided; Mrs. J. W. Thomp-



Mrs. J. W. Thompson, General Superintendent of Cradle Roll and Home Department.

son was elected General Superintendent of Cradle Rolls, and Mrs. R. G. Munday of Home Departments. At the close of the year, in 1909, the two departments were reunited, under the care of Mrs. J. W. Thompson, of Harrisburg, Pa. Each is well supplied with helpful literature, both for organizing and conducting these organizations, and has the good-will and God-speed of missionary workers over the whole church. Their mission is one of such deep and lasting benefit, and has so plainly received God's

approval, that we predict for them both a sphere of great usefulness and blessing. In the year of this writing, 1909, the Cradle Roll membership is 1,242, and they raised for the China Hospital, \$391.59, a total during these seven years of \$1,509.92.

There are (in 1910) 1,242 babies on the Cradle Roll, —which means many families brought into closer touch with missions.

The object, then, of the Missionary Cradle Roll, is not so much the collection of a few dollars each year for our foreign work, as that by proper training and suggestion, we may so prepare the children's hearts, that we may raise up a new generation of missionary workers, to carry on the work of the King. And this new generation that is coming, shall it be indifferent to the call of the heathen, or shall it be on fire with love and zeal to carry out Christ's last command? The Cradle Roll is the *first important step* in the training, and let us not fail to realize it.

This is the primary purpose of the best form of Cradle Roll work, and this purpose should burn steadily in the heart of each leader. Let her take her work seriously, or not take it at all.

There is, however, another side of the work, which is not so much an object of the Cradle Roll, but a beautiful and natural result of it. This is the enlisting of the parents' interest in missions because of the membership of their little child in the Cradle Roll. The parents' pride in whatever concerns their little one, leads them to an interest in the cause of missions, of which the baby is a part.

We will close with the words of Joseph Parker, a man whose mind was strong to deal with the mighty problems of religion and philosophy, and who saw the possibilities lying in the hearts of such little ones as these under our care.

"Childhood in itself is little, but it is a quantity that is always growing. I am struck by the wisdom that sees in childhood a growing power and that directs its attention to the early life of nations, for they who begin with the adults begin at the wrong end, and they who begin with the little ones begin at the right point, and may achieve profound and permanent success.

"O, may every finger you have, and every faculty, be made keen enough and strong enough to seize the chance and turn it, as it were, into fine gold."—*Joseph Parker.*



The Evolution of Branch Work

As briefly told by an official representative from each of the ten Conference Branch Woman's Missionary Societies.

The East Pennsylvania Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. Elizabeth Kreckler, at Myerstown, Pa., June 26, 1890. Annual conventions have been held since, in the following churches:— In 1891, in Lancaster, Mulberry Street; 1892, Mahanoy City; 1893, Salem, Allentown; 1894, Lehighton; 1895, Williamstown; 1896, Ashland; 1897, South Easton; 1898, Philadelphia, Christ; 1899, Lancaster, Bethany; 1900, Bethlehem; 1901, Mohnton; 1902, Allentown, Trinity; 1903, Lebanon, St. Paul's; 1904, Reading, First; 1905, Allentown, Bethany; 1906, Fleetwood; 1907, Easton, Bethany; 1908, Hazleton; 1909, Bangor,

At the fifth annual meeting of the Woman's Board, held in Reading, Pa., September, 1889, a request was made that the auxiliaries hold Thank-Offering meetings, one-half of the offering to be used as a fund for the establishment of missionary literature supplies.

The first officers of the Branch were: President, Mrs. W. M. Stanford; vice-president, Mrs. B. D. Albright; recording secretary, Miss Myra Reinoehl; corresponding secretary, Miss Deborah Swartz; treasurer, Miss Katie Hemperley; Superintendent of Mission Bands, Miss Ella Bachman. Miss Bachman resigned, and Miss Carrie V. Neitz was appointed to take her place.

Mrs. Stanford continued as president until 1893, when, at her request, she was relieved and Mrs. B. D. Albright was elected. Mrs. Albright served until 1902, when, on account of ill health, she was obliged to with-

draw, and Miss Carrie Bordlemay was elected to the office. Miss Bordlemay was president until 1909, when, owing to her marriage and removal to another conference, she was obliged to resign, and our present worthy president, Mrs. W. J. Gruhler, was elected to carry on the work.

At the time of the organization of the Branch, there were only seven auxiliaries. The following year, 1891, they had already increased to seventeen, with a membership of 660; \$447.23 having been raised. In 1891 there were fourteen Mission Bands, with a membership of 799. and money raised, \$93.01. In 1909 the corresponding secretary reported 70 auxiliaries, with a membership of 3,508, and 66 Mission Bands, with a membership of 2,620. The treasurer's report for 1908-1909 shows that the auxiliaries raised \$6,725.15; the Mission Bands, \$2,214.58; the Young People's Missionary Societies, \$768.43. The grand total raised by the Branch, \$9,810.03.

In 1894 a resolution was passed requesting presiding elders of the districts to set aside one day as Woman's Missionary Society Day at each of their camp-meetings; consequently, very successful missionary meetings are held each summer.

Under the auspices of the Branch, rallies have also been held at Albright College, and for several years Missionary Institutes were conducted in the different districts.

In 1904 Mrs. Myra M. Stauffer presented a beautiful silk banner to the Branch, as a gift from herself and husband, in memory of her sainted aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Krecker. This Memorial Banner has since been awarded annually to the auxiliary having gained the highest percentage of new members during the year.

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer also presented a pyrography banner, on which are inscribed the names of life and honorary members. This banner is awarded each

year to the Woman's Missionary Society or Young People's Missionary Society appropriating the largest amount per member for foreign work.

In 1906 the Branch took for its special work the partial support of Rev. C. W. Guintier, missionary in the Sudan, Africa. The Branch also took an active part in furnishing the summer home in Kuling, China; as well as in the raising of the Silver Anniversary Fund.

The officers of the Branch in 1910, are: President, Mrs. W. J. Gruhler; vice-president, Miss Carrie V. Neitz; recording secretary, Mrs. S. N. Walley; corresponding secretary, Miss Eva L. Smawley; treasurer, Mrs. Adam Saylor; Superintendent of Mission Bands, Mrs. C. E. Barr; Superintendent Young People's Missionary Society, Mrs. A. M. Sampsel; Superintendent Cradle Rolls, Mrs. Blanche Becker; Superintendent Work Among Foreigners, Mrs. Elda Debell; Branch Organizer, Mrs. M. M. T. Fouke.

The Central Pennsylvania Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society of the United Evangelical Church had its beginning when eleven delegates, representing eight auxiliaries, previously organized, met at Lewisburg, Pa., in June, 1890.

It was through the untiring energy of Mrs. W. E. Detwiler, who was our first, and is still our beloved president, and the consecrated zeal of Mrs. Elizabeth Kreckler, as organizer of auxiliaries, that this organization was effected.

Mrs. S. P. Remer, the honored President of our Woman's Missionary Society, first Superintendent of Mission Bands, at our first annual meeting reported the organization of six new Bands.

During the four years from 1890 to 1894 our Branch sailed on the turbulent waters of transition, but finally was taken on board that new soul-saving craft, "The United Evangelical Church," at Berwick, Pa., June 4-7,

1895. The fifteen years since then have shown steady progress and commendable energy in "throwing out the life line" to those in greatest need.

Seventeen years of untiring service is the fine record of Mrs. M. I. Jamison, Treasurer of the Branch. No other Branch Treasurer has served so long.

A new feature,—to our church,—of missionary work was presented at Lemoyne, Pa., in 1906, by Miss Elsie Bentz, viz., Deaconess Work, which received the enthusiastic attention of the convention; and two years later it was decided to present the matter of Deaconess Work through our representative, to conference, for their consideration; a committee of three, Mrs. Reimer, Mrs. Ritter, and Mrs. Hollenbaugh, were elected to act in conjunction with a similar committee appointed by the annual conference. A Deaconess Board was formed by the election of five ministers, one layman, and three women, who prepared a constitution and arranged for the work. Two applicants, who had been in training for this work, Miss Grace Hershman, of Carlisle, Pa., and Miss Georgianna Hoke, of Hanover, Pa., presented themselves for work. The first-named is now employed at Baltimore (Memorial), and the second at Berwick (Bower Memorial), and very encouraging reports are heard of them.

An unusual and impressive service at the conference session, on March 6, 1910, was the consecration to the office of deaconess, of Miss Hershman, Miss Hoke and Miss Elsie Bentz, by Bishop Heil. We regard this an important step in the Home Missionary work of our Branch.

The Illinois Branch was organized at Freeport, July 9-11, 1890, by Mrs. W. H. Fouke, organizer. She was appointed chairman of the convention, with Mrs. Luella Rosensteil, of Freeport, as secretary. Delegates from Chicago, El Paso, Naperville, Forreston, Cedarville, Sterling, South Chicago, Davis, Dixon, Freeport, and Clarno, Wisconsin, were present. Ten auxiliaries were reported,

with 199 members, having raised \$275.98. The first officers elected were: President, Mrs. W. H. Fouke; vice-president, Mrs. L. B. Tobias; recording secretary, Mrs. J. J. Rosensteil; corresponding secretary, Miss Mary Messner; treasurer, Mrs. Ida Haefele; Superintendent of Mission Bands, Mrs. Morrison.

In 1891 the convention was held at Shannon, Illinois. This proved memorable, in that it was recommended that the Executive Committee be instructed to arrange with the publishers of the *Bee Hive* for a Woman's Missionary Department. This request was granted, and Mrs. Emma Divan appointed editor. This proved a great help in our Branch.

The convention of 1892 was held at South Dixon, with twenty-four delegates present. Among the many questions that came up was the one, "Shall the Illinois Branch take up any special work?" The Committee on Ways and Means recommended,—“That district organizers be appointed for each presiding elder district, whose duty it shall be to work up the interest of the W. M. S. within her district.” They also recommended, “That *Dixon Chapel* be our special Branch work; and that each auxiliary shall raise a *self-denial* fund in December; also hold a Harvest Home meeting; the proceeds of each to go to our special work.” (We believe Illinois Branch to be the first in taking up these special observances.)

The growth of the Branch was very rapid, and we came to our convention of 1894, at Geneseo, with the report of 33 auxiliaries, with 621 members, having raised \$2,135.89. At this convention the Junior Department of our work was taken up, and Mrs. L. H. Hintz appointed the first Branch Superintendent. The successful results of our efforts for Dixon Chapel encouraged us to continue, and Sterling church was taken as our special work.

At the session in Naperville, in 1896, the privilege of supporting a boy in Mardin, Turkey, was granted to the

Young People's Missionary Society, and the support of two girls, to the Mission Band, as their special work.

To Northfield, July 24, 1896, the officers came with excellent reports. Forty-three societies reported 606 members, having raised \$3,065.15. Dearborn Street, Chicago Mission, was taken as our special work. Also the Evangelistic Department; Mrs. Emma Divan was appointed as the first Home Missionary Evangelist.

Mrs. L. H. Hintz presented a very beautiful and suggestive banner to the Mission Band having the largest average attendance during the year.

At Ottawa, in 1897, in compliance with the request of Mrs. Hintz, Mission Band secretaries for each district were appointed, and Western Missions taken up as special work.

Convention of 1898, at Shannon. Recommendations of special interest were the establishing of a Reading Circle in every auxiliary, and the appointment of a committee to plan and secure the necessary requirements for said Circle.

In 1899, at Dixon. South Chicago and El Paso were taken up as our special work.

1901, at Davis. Humboldt Park, Minnesota, was taken as our special work; also the circulating library. Mrs. W. H. Fouke was appointed Branch Historian. The recommendation was sent to the Woman's Board to have the name of "Junior Missionary Society" changed to "Young People's Missionary Society."

1902, at Highland Park. A large increase in membership was reported. Kimball Avenue church was made our special work.

At Sterling, 1903, the Cradle Roll Department was taken up, and Mrs. Lizzie Hintz elected superintendent.

1904, at El Paso. The recommendation to the Woman's Board, that they provide for the erection of a

chapel in memory of Mrs. Krecker, at one of our stations in China.

At Reddick, 1905. Reports were very encouraging. Fifty-four societies, with 915 members. A recommendation made that the officers of the local Woman's Missionary Society, Young People's Missionary Society and Mission Band form a class, and appoint a leader, to study our work,—the class to meet once each quarter.

The subject of City Missions was earnestly presented at our conventions by Mrs. Ida Haeefe, who made a thorough study of the question; this finally resulted in the following recommendation: "We believe that the first step in this direction should be the accumulation of a fund looking toward the training, or support, of consecrated young women, who are willing to devote themselves to missionary work in the city. We recommend, therefore, that our special conference Branch work this year be to contribute toward this fund, etc."

At Chadwick, 1906. The recommendation made that "The Training Fund for City Workers" be our special work. Mrs. Ida Haeefe was elected Branch Librarian. Green and white were adopted as our Branch colors.

1907, at Ashton. The appointment of Miss Iva Guiley as our field worker gave new inspiration to our work, and the Training School Fund was again recommended as our special effort. District Librarians, under the direction of the Branch, were appointed. A representative was appointed to attend the Summer School of Missions, at Winona Lake, Indiana.

At Freeport, in 1908, our Training School was the leading thought. The report of the field worker, Miss Guiley, bringing much encouragement, she was again appointed as Field Secretary and Training School Superintendent.

We came to our annual session at Geneseo, in 1909, with excellent reports from all departments. During the

year the Illinois Branch Bulletin came to take the place of the annual executive letters. It proved an inspiration to the auxiliaries, and was requested continued. The report of the first Missionary Oratorical Contest having been very successful, resulted in the recommendation that contest work be made a special feature of the Branch, in charge of the Young People's Missionary Society Superintendent.

The Platte River Branch was organized at Beaver Crossing, Nebraska, in 1890, by Mrs. Shenberger, who not only was the means of organizing, but worked unceasingly to advance the Branch and promote its interests, as long as she lived. She was the president for five years, and Mission Band leader until her death. Others who helped in the organization are Mrs. Mary Shupp and Mrs. Mary Shively. Both were earnest workers, and for many years both held offices in the Branch. They have now gone to their reward.

Mrs. Bailey, of Glenville, Nebraska, was one of the charter members and is still interested in our work. Mrs. Serf was one of the early officers, but has been obliged to resign all active work on account of ill health. Some of the first auxiliaries were Blue Springs, Glenville, Dawson, Clay Center, and Doniphan. Dawson and Blue Springs are now among our strongest societies. Our Branch has labored under so many disadvantages that the growth has been slow, but we have taken up all we felt able to carry; and as we enlist the young, doubtless we will be able to accomplish more. The demands of the work, while the country was new, and droughts and "hard times" prevailed, have been so many, that the society thought best to help our own home missionary field as much as possible. So we have contributed to our Conference Missionary Society. We have helped Le Mars College, and to the building of churches the Woman's Missionary Society always gives good subscrip-

tions. The early conventions were often not very well attended, owing to the fact that both officers and delegates were obliged to pay their own expenses.

In the spring of 1901 Mrs. Kreckler made a tour through the entire conference. She visited every charge, and organized a number of auxiliaries. We greatly appreciate the work Sister Kreckler did; her sweet, lovely manner won all hearts. She also attended the annual convention of the Branch that year and was a great encouragement to us there.

Since we have a mission in China, several societies and individual members have supported a child there. The Branch has had a Day at camp-meeting nearly every year, when programs were given, consisting of addresses, recitations, a sermon and special music. This day has interested people from all over the conference, thereby scattering the information regarding our Woman's Missionary Society work.

We were organized as a Branch at Des Moines, Iowa, in July, 1899, by our sainted Mrs. Elizabeth Kreckler. There were eighteen auxiliaries, to begin with, which number has increased to twenty-eight. We are "slow but sure." Difficulties there are to overcome; our gain is steady, although the progress has not been as rapid as desired.

In 1908, urgent letters were sent out, by the Branch Corresponding Secretary, to the pastors, asking for the organization of at least one more Woman's Missionary Society;—this in order to secure *two* delegates to the Woman's Board. But it seemed it could not be done at that time.

We hope for, pray for, and *expect*, greater things in the Des Moines Branch.

The Pittsburg Conference Branch was organized by Mrs. Elizabeth Kreckler, on the 3rd of August, 1899, at Fairfield Avenue, Johnstown, Pa.

We have been doing the regular work that each Branch is expected to do.

Several years ago, our corresponding secretary, Mrs. Steelsmith, made a beautiful silk banner and presented it to the Branch,—to be given each year to the society that raises the largest amount of dues,—Self-denial and Thank-Offering,—per member. During 1909 one Oratorical Contest was given, under the auspices of the Young People.

At the Highland Park Camp-meeting of Ohio, in August, 1900, Bishop R. Dubs offered a stirring address in behalf of Foreign Missions, and urged the women to organize. He asked for volunteers to help start a Branch Society. There were eight women who expressed their willingness to assist him. Two of these were Sister H. A. Hensel and Sister W. E. Bailey, both wives of ministers. The other names have not been recorded. The Bishop called a meeting and held election of officers, as follows: President, Mrs. W. W. Sherrick, Lancaster; vice-president, Mrs. Seine, Columbus; recording secretary, Mrs. M. B. Templin; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. E. Bailey, Cleveland; treasurer, Mrs. Shuster.

The credit of finally getting the Ohio Branch "machinery" into motion belongs to Mrs. S. P. Remer, our worthy President of the Woman's Missionary Society. She continued to write to us, urging a beginning. Thereupon a Branch meeting was planned for September of 1901. Mrs. Sherrick was elected delegate to the Woman's Board.

In July, 1902, the next Branch Convention was held.

Our conference is small; hence there has been hard "sailing" for our "missionary boat." Our record now is—thirteen Women's Missionary Societies, three Young People's Missionary Societies and two Mission Bands.

The Oregon Branch was organized in April of 1901,

at a meeting of a few ladies during the conference session in Corvallis, Oregon.

Mrs. Poling was elected President; Mrs. E. Mouldenhaver, vice-president; Mrs. M. Edson, secretary; Mrs. D. M. Metzgar, corresponding secretary.

Since that date there have been five missionary programs given, in connection with the Bible Conferences.

The Branch organization was little more than a *name*, until April of 1909, when it was reorganized at St. John's, Oregon, with Mrs. Myra Miller-Stauffer as president. Since her election there has been more accomplished than in all the preceding years of the Branch's existence. And this largely because we have a leader with the *ability* and *willingness* to work and show the *rest of us how!* We have a number who are willing and able to do things, but we did so much need a Mrs. Stauffer. We are all new in the work; now we shall forge ahead.

There were four auxiliaries in 1901, now we have ten, three of which were organized in 1909. Portland (First Church) supports an evangelist in China, (\$80); Corvallis auxiliary supports a native helper (\$35).

The offices held in the Oregon Branch Woman's Missionary Society, in 1910, are: President, Mrs. Myra Miller-Stauffer; vice-president, Mrs. Felicia Holt; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Nellie Winter; recording secretary, Mrs. May Fletcher; treasurer, Mrs. Ada Elliott; Branch Organizer, Mrs. May Fletcher; Superintendent Young People's Missionary Society, Mrs. Bessie Young-Leitch; Superintendent of Mission Bands, Mrs. Mary Miller-Fisher; Branch Librarian, Mrs. Edna Staver; Mission Study Secretary, Mrs. Cecile Bittner; Magazine secretary, Mrs. Laura Dunkleberger; Missionary Medal Oratorical Contest Superintendent, Miss Nellie Casebère.

The Northwestern Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Society was organized in connection with a

camp-meeting at our Stanton appointment, June 21, 1901, Mrs. Wm. Jonas acting as chairman. Previously, however, a number of local auxiliaries had been organized through the efforts of our dear Mrs. Kreckler.

For certain reasons it has been difficult to keep up a really live Branch organization, but we have a number of enthusiastic workers in our Branch, and are certain that the cause of missions *will* be advanced. One disadvantage in this Branch work is the great distance our fields are apart. This renders impossible a large representation at the Branch Conventions. These conventions are seasons of real inspiration and we regret that more cannot attend.

Much of the work is done by correspondence. In many secluded spots, scattered throughout our Branch, are faithful workers whose names may not be known; but God knows their earnest efforts and will reward them. We have had the privilege of coming in personal touch with a number of our foreign missionaries, several of whom were connected with Western Union College; and another one of our Northwestern Conference girls has been appointed to the foreign field.

But we realize that unless Home work prospers it will be difficult to do much for the Foreign Work. Many of our auxiliaries are on mission fields. We must truly be *missionaries* in the Northwestern Conference Branch, or we may as well write "*failure*."

The members of our Woman's Missionary Society are endeavoring to work devotedly and intelligently. The officers keep in touch with each other by means of a circle letter, known as the "Budget." The object of this is to learn the needs of every department of the Branch work, and try to formulate plans for improvement, to be discussed at the Branch Convention.

There were reported about twenty auxiliaries, but upon sending out report blanks, a number of these proved to be

Aid Societies. We believe that with the coöperation of our presiding elders and pastors and consecrated efforts of our church members, we will prosper, even though scattered throughout Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The Kansas Branch was organized at Hillside school-house, Republican Mission, Kansas, May 22, 1902, by Mrs. H. L. Price, with fifteen members present. Officers elected: President, Mrs. J. F. Keyser; vice-president, Mrs. J. W. Shank; corresponding secretary, Miss Clara Reed; recording secretary, Mrs. B. Hillier; treasurer, Mrs. R. Buckner.

The second convention was held at Ebenezer church, Clay Circuit, Kansas, July 23, 1903. At this time Mrs. J. W. Shank was elected president, and this department officer added: Mrs. J. W. Drehmer, Superintendent of Mission Bands. Mrs. J. W. Drehmer was elected president in 1904, and served until 1909, when Mrs. B. F. Ludy took the office.

Conventions have been held annually with the exception of the year 1905.

Of the auxiliaries, Ebenezer, on Clay Circuit, is the oldest in Kansas, having been organized in March, 1891. The charge was a part of the Platte River Conference until the Kansas Conference was formed, and the society reported to Platte River Branch. They have maintained an active organization ever since, except during a short period in 1904.

The Granite auxiliary was the first one in Oklahoma, organized in December, 1901, by Mrs. J. W. Drehmer, who also organized the first Mission Band.

A Prospective

Dreams and visions have played a great part in the lives of our forefathers and, though some may say the time of prophetic visions has passed, they still exert a powerful influence over individual minds. Bend your ear to the message in this chapter, and let your mind be borne away into the land of the future. The preceding chapters record a remarkable story of missionary activity and development, while our Woman's Missionary Society has stood for twenty-five years as a champion for prayer and missions linked with faith and works. In this, the prospective chapter, we are supposed to "see visions and dream dreams," of what we may record as our future achievements as a Society. In view of the past, we are confident this work will be continued; for, under God's guidance, a great religious current flows through the minds and hearts of the mothers of to-day which will be imparted to their children along with their home-training, education and culture: the lives of these women are full of power and beauty and they have left their impress on this missionary work in our Home and Foreign Field;—therefore, it will live and grow. "A quarter of a century ago," says Dr. A. Stapleton, our church Historian, "your work, figuratively speaking, was *iron* in the rough; the years rolled on, and the Divine Hand, through the women, forged the baser metal into the beautiful *silver* of to-day, which will, in twenty-five years more, be transformed into the shining *gold* of the *Missionary Jubilee of 1934*." In looking forward we rejoice in the delights of bounding hope with increased faith in God.

If, like the astrologer, we consult the stars, we find shining brightly in our own United Evangelical firmament, the star of Mrs. Elizabeth Kreckler and others who were idealists, with a genius for inspiring hope, and their lives

are radiant with noble missionary deeds. Their biographies will be an incentive to the 300,000 professed Christians of our "*Golden Jubilee Year*," when the missionary spirit will be uppermost in the heart of the believer, and sympathetic interest with mutual helpfulness will be found uniting our dear Home-land with Foreign-lands. An all-conquering spirit is now pervading the church, because of the fulfilment of the prophecy and the realization of the hope expressed in the motto of the Woman's Missionary Society in its beginning,—"*A Woman's Missionary Society in every congregation and every woman a member*," and every pastor in hearty sympathy and coöperation with our aims and efforts. The church has advanced in every respect, and progress marks each year,—for every family of the church is a *home-missionary society*, where the children grow up in a missionary atmosphere and where laborers for the whitened harvest fields are trained. The Branch Conventions, Board Meetings and Young People's Summer Conferences form the Horoscope, from which we notice tremendous energy and some of the momentum of Christendom filling the church, thereby causing a strong missionary sentiment to prevail among students and college graduates, who answer to the call of the church for missionary volunteers—"Here am I, send me,"—and the supply exceeds the demand. Our Western Missions soon become self-sustaining on account of the aggressive evangelistic work so successfully carried on, and cowboys, mountaineers, Indians, and foreigners are among the happy converts.

One notable feature of our work on the Pacific Coast is the vision of native Chinese missionaries from the Hunan, China, Conference engaged in Christian missionary work among Chinese,—and we justly claim these representatives, because the General Conference Records in 1906 say, "It was through the agency and efforts of the Woman's Missionary Society that the inauguration of

the China Mission became possible and actual." Another glimpse into the future reveals our Society busy in home congregations with a distinct and definite field,—the Deaconess work. Each conference Branch claims this heritage of service; and a new vision of the love of God and our great unfinished work appeals to many of our consecrated young maidens who gladly carry a message of good cheer, supplying material needs as well as the news of salvation for the soul. In our dreams we also see Mission Study classes conducted in each congregation awakening great interest in the religious enterprises of the world. This increasing enlistment of the young people and the power of their influence made a new monthly missionary magazine necessary for them. Our crown of literature was not complete, until we placed our *Missionary Tidings* as the central signet stone, with our sparkling *Missionary Gem* on one side and the *Young People's Missionary Jewel*, of rare beauty, on the other side. Our Golden Jubilee finds our Society extending its arms in four other countries besides China. At the silver anniversary our prayers and gifts sustained one missionary in the Soudan of Darkest Africa, in addition to sixteen representatives in China. In Micronesia, a devoted Evangelical minister and wife, under foreign auspices, as also another one of our number in South America, claim that their missionary spirits were developed in our societies; these, therefore, were the nucleus from whence sprang our successful work in these countries. Our fondest hopes are realized, and our longing eyes look forward to the helping hands we are stretching out, not only to our representative missionaries in China, Africa, South America and Micronesia, but to India also, where work for child-widows and unhappy women of the zenanas of that Dark Land is being done by some of our own number. Come with me to the Annual Meeting of the Woman's Board, October, 1934. This is the fiftieth Anniversary and "Golden Jub-

ilee," and the most unique in our history; it is held in Changsha, Hunan, China, in the beautiful Dubs Memorial Church, during dedication week. This church represents Christian love and sympathy, for every dollar provided by the church in America, the native Chinese members provided a dollar also: it is eminently fitting that the Woman's Board should participate in the Dedictory Services with the Chinese, for it is a practical demonstration of their work.

The church has a seating capacity of one thousand and is comfortably equipped to entertain a convention. Our Denomination being now represented in five Foreign Fields, it will be apparent that the growth of liberality in the church has been wonderful, keeping pace with the marvelous increase in the work abroad, which demanded greater efforts in the home churches. We congratulate the Society on having girdled the earth with its missionary activities. This Jubilee delegation consists of representatives from America, China, Africa, South America, India and the Islands of the Sea. Modern invention made it possible for all our Conference Branches to be well represented,—for not only automobiles across continents and steamships across seas carried missionary delegations,—through the generosity of William L. Gruhler, his inflated air-ship, the "Evangelical," transported many of the delegates from the United States. Navigating the air was unanimously voted a great improvement on methods of transportation, by this happy delegation of officers and friends. Listening to the roll-call during the convention many names are familiar, being always associated with the work; and though most of the members are young people, yet there are some who seem to have found the fountain of perpetual youth, for they are still bubbling over with holy missionary enthusiasm as they were when we celebrated our Silver Anniversary. Then there are others who represent a long life of service and

have developed great personalities by varied experiences and by great books they have studied. Their power at a throne of grace thrills the convention, and, while slipping out of active service, they have become a part of the blessed company of interceding prayer-winners on earth. The treasurer announces the fact that an Endowment Fund is established for the annual support of twenty-five missionaries in Foreign Fields; also, that the *Golden Jubilee Fund* amounts to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

The Bureau of Literature not only occupies its own building at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but has established branch houses in Chicago, Ill., and Changsha, China. A monthly denominational missionary paper, *The Overland*, is printed in Chinese, and its aim is to present the Gospel, the Sunday-School Lesson, Christian Endeavor Topics, and Missionary Programs. The hospital and medical work in China is now self-supporting and hundreds of patients are treated daily. Schools are established in Changsha, Liling, Siangtan, Hsien and Chucho, for the training and educating of the boys and girls. Acres of agricultural land in Northern Nigeria, British West Africa, were purchased and presented to the Board to be used as an Orphanage and Hospital with an endowment for their erection and support. All these forward movements in the cause of Christ created enthusiastic appreciation from delegates and friends in response to the reports. The testimony and closing meeting was crowned with the "Hallelujah Chorus" of praises to God for the *Golden Jubilee*, with its world-wide opportunities for evangelistic work in soul-winning among the White, Black, Yellow, Red and Brown races. While we joined hands and hearts in our Farewell-circle and prayerfully consecrated our lives with greater zeal to represent Christ in the world, we peered with keener gaze through the gloaming, and it revealed the "*Diamond Jubilee*," embracing the final victory and ultimate triumph of the cross with the coming of the King in his beauty.

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Reminiscences : being a record of five
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Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary
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Steinmetz. -- Harrisburg, Pa. :
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